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CURABLE?



John Major takes on the Tories

Prime Minister's personal appeal on Europe

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

It was the defining moment of the 1997 general election campaign; the point at which the Prime Minister turned his back on Labour, and took on the opponents within his own Government and party.

Openly defied by junior ministers who had broken ranks and all the rules of Whitehall discipline to oppose a European sin-gle currency. John Major was forced to take

But the rot continued apace last night, with yet another minister. Eric Forth, coming out against the single currency. Instead of celebrating a further fall in

unemployment, as planned, the Conservative leader turned his daily press conference into a repeat of his long-standing appeal to keep the option open on a single currency.
To the delight of the Tory pro-Europeans.

Mr Major courageously stood his ground. But he left his party's vociferous Eurosceptics in despair that he had not snatched the opportunity to swing the election by grabbing for the votes of diehard opponents of anything to do with Brussels.

Opening his vain appeal to the rebels, Mr Major said: "Everyone who's been out there in the country in this campaign knows where the heart and gut of this election lies." That issue, he said, was the question of a federal Europe.

All the reports The Independent received from around the country yesterday suggested that Europe was not at all the number one issue with the voters. The prime concerns were education, health and crime.

A former minister defending a safe Tory seat said that the only people raising Europe were older voters, in their 50s and 60s, who were essentially Euro-sceptic. That was an impression from a number of former





Hand of faith: John Major confronts his party faithful (Photographs: David Modell/IPG. Main photograph: Russell Boyce)

ministers who had been canvassing. But there was no question about the target of Mr Major's appeal - his own party. Never had such a vital issue been "so woe-

fully misunderstood". Mr Major said: "No one at this moment, no one whatever they say, whatever their predilections may be, wherever their instincts may lie, no one can be absolutely cer- ance for and against the currency could not

tain in what way it would affect us, or what have been more even-handed. If it worked, the outcome will be, whether we joined the single currency, or whether we stayed

Yet the Conservative ministers and MPs

who had come out against the single currency appeared certain enough.

Mr Major's own assessment of the bal-

the single currency could provide rising living standards across Europe. If it failed it could bring "economic catastrophe across

the whole of Europe. But he concluded by saying that until the negotiations had been finalised no one could know which way the balance would lie.

"Whether you agree with me or disagree

with me; like me or loathe me, don't bind my hands when I am negotiating on behalf of the British nation. Mr Major said he was often urged by crit-

ics to rule the whole single currency issue in, or out, entirely. "It would be splendidly decisive, they say - so splendidly decisive you would send the British Prime Minister naked into that conference chamber with

* THE INDEPENDENT election'97

Labour plays health card Rise in women candidates Election countdown, pages 9-13

Leading article, page 19 Letters, page 19 Julian Critchley on party cowardice, page 21

nothing to negotiate, with nothing to wring the best deal out of our partners,

But the immediate reaction from his own party gave few grounds for hope of unity.

John Redwood, the most prominent dissident, said: "I am not going to change my position. I am a consistent man, I have thought it through. On principle I oppose the single currency economically, consti-tutionally and politically.

More damaging. Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the backbench 1922 committee, told BBC radio's World at One that he supported the two Ministers who had stepped out of line - Mr Horam and Mr Paice. "We are putting a marker down simply to say that we have very strong feelings and we don't want a single currency. We don't want to lose the pound," he said.

As for the two ministers, Mr Major told his press conference: ""We have spoken to those two ministers overnight. They realise how unwise they were. They realise that they have to accept our negotiate-and-decide policy. They realise that they are bound by collective responsibility.

But the chairman of Mr Horam's Orpington constituency Conservative association, Phil Winter, told the World at One: ... As far as Mr Horam is concerned we have always understood he has maintained the party line of wait and see, but he has expressed his opinion and has the full support of the association."

From the party's pro-European wing, one Minister said: "Mr Major's response was courageous, and it could prove a turning point in the party's internal battle. Certainly, he has surprised those of us who were beginning to despair of when he was going to stand his ground."

Intruding on the Tories' grief, Tony Blair said in Southampton: "We are witnessing the collapse of the Conservative Party under the weight of its own divisions."

An appeal from Tony Blair

if you support

Labour studies privatising Post Office

Michael Harrison

Labour is examining plans put forward by the Post Office to privatise the organisation if it wins the election in a move a universal service to every which could raise £2bn towards address in the country at a the "black hole" in the public uniform price. finances.

is to sell 49 per cent of the Post Office, thus keeping it in public ownership, but at the same time give it commercial freedom to raise money on the financial markets and enter joint ventures with private sector partners. The second more radical option is to sell a 51 per cent

QUICKLY

£3m fine for Morgan Deutsche Morgan Grenfell was vesterday ordered to pay more than £3m after the regulator Imro handed down the largest fine ever imposed under the Financial Services Act. A £2m fine for the mishandling of investors' funds by former

star manager Peter Young

was almost three times higher than the previous Page 22

Tobacco talks America's two largest tobacco companies have opened secret talks with plaintives for a settiement that could entail a payour worth \$300bn in a bid to escape a legal nightmare. The move could have a favourable knock-on effect on legal action against UK tobacco

compan

retain a "golden share". This would enable Labour to ring fence monopoly services such as the Royal Mail and guarantee

As a first step to privatisation, Two options are understood the Post Office could be to be under consideration. One reconstituted as a 100 per cent government-owned company. This change of status would free it from Treasury spending rules, giving it the freedom to fight growing competition from overseas post offices and private mail firms such as DHL. TNT and Federal Express.

Labour's deputy leader John

stake in the Post Office but Prescott, a strong advocate of Post Office. partnerships between the private and public sector, has been

Both are said to favour "commercialisation" of the Post briefed on the plans by John Office, including the introduc-

6 Labour are determined to deliver a solution where Michael Heseltine failed 9

Labour's trade and industry team with responsibility for the Post Office, it would mark a

Roberts, chief executive of the tion of private capital, although Post Office. So too has Kim Mr Prescott may baulk at the Howells, the member of sale of 51 per cent. If Labour does sell part of the

will look at the sale of air traffic control. It would also mean that Labour had succeeded where Michael Heseltine failed. Mr Heseltine was prevented from privatising the Post Office in 1995 after a backbench Tory

One source said: "They are determined to deliver a solution to the Post Office's needs where Michael Heseltine failed."

Labour has confirmed it would consider the sale of been slated for privatisation. However, Post Office chiefs through the EFL

further significant step in its have cautioned it against piece-conversion to privatisation meal sales arguing that following confirmation that it Parcelforce should be kept intact and sold along with Royal Mail and the Counters network.

The Post Office made a profit of £422m in 1995-96 and in the current financial year is budgeted to contribute £330m to government finances through External Finance Limit. A 100 per cent sale could raise

But a more attractive solution might be to give it commercial freedom and then sell a half stake. This could raise Parcelforce, which has long £2bn instantly but give Labour a continuing stream of income

Snake legs it straight out of Eden

Charles Arthur Science Editor

Michelangelo seems to have got it at least partly right, when in the Sistine Chapel he depicted the snake in the Garden of Eden as having arms.

Except for one detail: the last things snakes lost was their legs, according to scientists who reckon they have found a 97-million-year-old missing link. If the details are confirmed

of the fossilised skeleton, which was found, appropriately enough, 20km north of Jerusalem, then it may answer one of evolution's great un-

lizards lose their limbs and The suggestion is that the

most primitive ancestor of the snake, called Pachyrhachis problematicus, evolved during the Cretaceous period between 136 and 165 million years ago.

It had a pelvis and tiny but well-formed hind limbs, which would fit with the fact that modern-day boa constrictors have traces of a pelvic girdle. and even have limited vestiges of back legs.

Michael Caldwell, of Alberta University, Edmonton, and Michael Lee, of Sydney University, reckon that Pachyr-

lived in the sea before its descendants moved onto dry land. Because snake skeletons are delicate structures, they tend not to form clear fossils, leading to gaps in the evolutionary table. The search for the origin

of snakes has proved to be a thom in the side of vertebrate paleontologists," commented Nicholas Fraser, of the Virginia Museum of Natural History. The appropriately-named

Pachyrhachis problematicus was originally classed as a snake, and then as a lizard, when it was discovered 20 years ago. But the Canadian and Aus-

journal Nature, found new evidence that Pachyrhachis problematicus is really the most primitive snake. It has a snakelike head, a long, slender body, no forelimbs but well-developed hind limbs.

They further claim that snakes are related to a group of lizards which include the present-day monitors, such as the Komodo Dragon, from Asia. This group includes several

kinds of extinct sea-lizard, which may be the distant ancestors of snakes. Best known of these are the mosasaurs, giant sea monsters that died out tralian fossil hunters, who report at the same time as dinosaurs, their work today in the science 65 million years ago.



Serpent with limbs: Detail from the Sistine Chapel

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significant shorts

Policeman jailed for death crash to keep his job

A policeman who was jailed after causing two deaths during a 100mph pursuit is to keep his job after being released from jail, a West Midlands police disciplinary hearing decided yesterday. PC Lezlie Collins, 43. was given a three-month prison sentence at Birmingham Crown Court in February after being conticted of the policy of his called the DC Polymer. causing the death by dangerous driving of his colleague PC Robert Dallow, 41, and innocent motorist Neil Homer, 20, of Oldbury,

West Midlands. He was also banned from driving for two years. Mr Homer's father Dennis said: "We are too upset to speak about this at the moment. I will give my side of the story but we have been treated disgracefully for the past 15 months. I'm not prepared to say anything further at the moment."

Killer agrees to extradition

Triple killer Alan Reeve, arrested in the Irish Republic this month after absconding from Broadmoor special hospital in 1981, yesterday agreed to return to Britain in accordance with an application for his extradition.

Reeve. 49, is expected to be flown to Britain within 48 hours,

after signing consent to two extradition warrants in Dublin. He told Dublin District Court he was agreeing to be extradited because he was confident he would be released from detention on his return, because of his "good behaviour over a long period of time".

Actors reject new pay offer

The actors' union Equity last night refused an improved pay offer yesterday to 35.000 actors aimed at averting a nationwide

The union said it had rejected the Theatrical Management
Association offer – covering the "vast majority" of 100 subsidised
regional British theatres, and raising actors basic minimum salary
from £190 to £250 a week by April next year – because it excluded 24 theatres from the main pay increase and offered only £4 a week extra in subsistence payments. However, the two sides have agreed to meet for further talks on Monday.

Robins all the rage in style stakes



The three-wheeled transport made famous by Del Boy in television's Only Fools and Horses has become the latest craze in Austria. Robin Reliant manufacturers have been flooded with orders since young executives in Vienna decided it was chic to be seen driving the SLX model. Workers at the factory's base in Tamworth, Staffordshire, are working "flat out" to keep up with the demand, and there is now a 12-week waiting list as staff

work on an order for 40 vehicles, worth £280,000.

'Wicked' prostitute jailed for life

A prostitute was sentenced to custody for life at the Old Bailey yesterday for murdering a wealthy banker who tape-recorded his own horrisic death.

Judge Henry Pownall QC told 20-year-old Samantha Enoch of Clapham, south London: "In this court there have been some calculated, calculating and callous defendants, but few to touch you ... you are dangerous, devious and wicked." Enoch had claimed she had nothing to do with the death of Syrian-born Habib Saliba, who was stabbed 26 times at his flat in London in June last year. Ronald Tamplin, 27, who was also accused of murder, was cleared.

Islanders in poison scare

A military bomb disposal team has been sent to the Outer Hebridean island of Barra to examine a canister washed up on the beach only days after a mystery illness struck eight people on the

Islanders are concerned there may be a link between the "flu pe sickness and the 145,000 tons of germ warfare chemic dumped in deep water off the Hebrides after the Second World War. Barra councillor, Captain Roddy Mackinnon last night appealed to the Ministry of Defence not to destroy the canister before analysing its contents. The MoD has been dismissive of suggestions that the dumped chemicals could be the cause of the illness, but there are suspicions on the island that the canister could be destroyed to eliminate any evidence. Stephen Goodwin

Academy award for Elton John

Rock star Elton John yesterday returned to his alma mater, the Royal Academy of Music in London, to be awarded honorary membership. The singer-songwriter, who studied at the junior academy from age 11 to 15, joined an "exclusive club" of "eminent musicians", whose 250 members include conductor Bernard Haitink and tenor Jose Carreras. Previous recipients of the award include Mendelssohn, Liszt and Richard Strauss.

Church arsonists strike again

Another Catholic church in Northern Ireland has been damaged in a fire believed to have been started by arsonists. Firemen managed to restrict damage to the church at Annaclone, near Banbridge, County Down, to the vestry. Since the beginning of last year there have been 48 attacks on places of worship in Northern Ireland.

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Foulston: Strong views on commercial potential of motor racing (Photograph: Philip Meech)

Businesswoman of the year kicks wall of testosterone

Clicquot Businesswoman of the Year confrontational. Nicola Foulston, chief executive of Brands Hatch, loves nothing better than a scrap with the blazer-andcravat-wearing male motor racing establishment.
For instance, Ms Foulston, 29, believes her leftow.

acetrack owners are wrong to concentrate on the sport. They should be in it for the money, she says.
"I have very strong views on this. We should be making a profit. This is a serious business. We should not concentrate on the sport as a priority."

Her jaundiced view of the sport and her unwillingness to pull punches owe much to her background. polish the cars and run errands.

John Foulston, the founder of Atlantic computers, built up a £40m fortune through computer-leasing and, in May 1986, bought Brands Hatch to satisfy his newfound passion.

A year later, while testing an open-topped Maclaren, he crashed and was killed. Rather than putting her off,

Ms Foulston, then 19, decided to drop out of her maths degree course and concentrate on turning Brands Hatch into a profit-making business.

As such, she has run into a wall of testosterone. "It's clearly a very male-dominated industry—in the pit lane and the paddock particularly. But there are a lot of woman working in the marketing and administration of the sport," she says.

Her life revolves around her business, and she is happy to remain single. She was briefly married to her helicopter instructor, Craig Sargeant, but they split up

in 1994 after less than a year. When she took over Brands Hatch it was "fairly run Her involvement with Brands Hatch began when she down", she says. Since then the headquarters and conwas 11, when her father suddenly fell in love with motor ference centre, named after her father, were built for racing and brought his elder daughter along to help £2.6m. New pits were built at a cost of £2.9m. A deal with BMW gave the Nigel Mansell driving school 40. new saloons. Renegotiation of television coverage meant the company stopped paying for coverage and instead received an income of £100,600 a year all And with her company now making over £2m a year in profit, she clearly sees herself as the winner.

John Willcock

Soul star Mark Morrison must go to jail

Mark Momison, the soul singer who brought us Moan and Groan and Homy was feeling slightly less energetic yesterday after he was told he faced a jail sentence for threatening a police officer with an

electric stun gun. Morrison, 24, who has had five Top 10 hits including a number one last summer, was convicted of the charges which related to an incident outside a 24-hour supermarket in west London last October as he returned home with friends at 4.30am, after an evening

spent nightclubbing.
Plain-clothes police officers initially believed he had been planning a robbery and moved to arrest him as he left the shop and walked towards his chauffeur-

driven Mercedes. Detective Constable John Cushion told the court Morrison turned to him, raising his right hand which was holding the stun gun.

"I feared he was going to fire the gun into my body and I hit him on the head with my radio," said the officer. "He was trying to use the gun on me but I struggled with him and prevented it."

Morrison admitted to Maryle bone Magistrates Court in west London that he had possessed the illegal stun gun, which he bought in the US for his own protection. It can deliver a charge of 23,000



volts, causing "involuntary muscle contraction, pain, shock, a loss of balance and mental confusion".

The singer denied using threat-ening behaviour and said he feared for his life. He felt "insulted" and "disrespected" after being accused of robbery.

Stipendiary magistrate David Kennett-Brown told the pop star: "These very serious offences can only be properly dealt with by way of a custodial sentence." Sentencing was adjourned until 14 May. Leaving court amid a posse of minders, a pair of celebrity sunglasses could not hide his tears.

Maybe Morrison's recent stage performances were tempting fate. They involved him brandishing handcuffs, backed by female dancers clad as mini-skirted po-Matthew Brace

Diplomatic role for Sidney Poitier

Hollywood star Sidney Poitier took on a new role yesterday, representing the Bahamas as ambassador to Japan. The 70-year-old Oscar-winning actor, who holds dual US and Bahamian nationality, took up the post in a ceremony presided over by Emperor Akihito at the imperial Palace.

"It's exhilarating, it's a very satisfving feeling," he said, after formally presenting his credentials to the

Poitier, who has only visited Japan twice before and has no plans to live here, will carry out his duties while continuing to make movies around the world.

"There will be times when I will make films, there will be times when I will probably direct films. There will be no time when I'm not available to fulfil my responsibilities as an ambassador." he said. It's just as well Poitier is not

700-island Caribbean nation has no embassy in Japan. He said it was important to him to help promote the country where he grew up and which was the home of his parents and forefa-

planning to live in Tokyo, since the

"I was raised in the Bahamas. My roots are there. I am as familiar with that society and its people as I am with America and there is in the present government a need for me to be of some service." he

briefing

HEALTH

Risk in home births for first-time mothers

First-time mothers planning a home birth are at high risk of ending up in hospital because of complications during labour, a study has found. The survey of 6,000 home births during 1994 found 15 per cent of women booked for delivery at home had to be transferred to

hospital for delivery but among first-time mothers the proportion rose to 40 per cent. The chief reason was prolonged labour.

Geoffrey Chamberlain, Emeritus Professor of Obstetries at the University of London, who conducted the study, said that 10 per cent of first time mathem collect for home births but many might be cent of first-time mothers asked for home births but many might be better off in hospital. "Most women who want a home birth feel it will be more satisfying and they will be more in control but they should realise that it may not end up that way. Jeremy Laurence

TRAVEL

Airport is bottom of the pops

Frankfurt airport has been singled out as the worst tourist facility in central Europe, narrowly beating a Sound of Music Tour of Sabburg.
The guide book publisher Lonely Planet asked the eight authors of its new Central Europe on a Shoestring for their highlights and lowlights of the region. The writers voted the Sound of Music Tour runner-up, not least for the antics of other participants: "Loutish rountly akinging in the currons homes chapting if any 15 cains.

runner-up, not least for the antics of other participants: "Loutish youths skipping in the summer house chanting 'I am 16 going on 17', or manic Julie Andrews impersonators flouncing in the fields, screeching 'The hills are alive'."

In third place was the resort of Siofok on Lake Balaton in Hungary. Wine cellars in Vienna's popular suburb of Grinzing take a hit in fourth place. Lower down the order, the Warsaw branch of McDopald's and the Nowa Huta industrial complex put in appearances for Poland. Murich's Rierfest also rates a touristic in appearances for Poland. Munich's Bierfest also rates a touristic

health warning.

The writers' votes on central Europe's highlights puts Prague in pole position, followed by the Alps, Budapest and Czech beer.

Central Europe on a Shoestring, £13.99, Lonely Planet. Simon Calder



FOOD

Marinated meat cuts cancer risk

Marinating chicken in olive oil, lemon and garlic has been suggested as a recipe for preventing cancer. Coating chicken pieces in the marinade before grilling are said to reduce the production of cancer-promoting chemicals in the meat.

Grilling or frying beef and chicken is known to convert harmless compounds in the muscle tissue into heterocyclic amines, which promote the formation of tumours. The researchers from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California wanted to test a theory that carcinogen production might be affected by preparation methods, they write in New Scientist.

They took medallions of chicken breast and marinated half in a mixture of olive oil, brown sugar, cider vinegar, lemon juice, garlic, salt and mustard. After being cooked for 20 minutes, the marinated meat contained only a tenth of the heterocyclic amines found in the unmarinated meat. But if the meat was overcooked for a further 20 minutes, another type of heterocyclic amine was 10 times more abundant in the marinated samples.

ASTRONOMY

Gamma ray riddle solved

Astronomers reckon they have solved the mystery of "gamma ray bursters" – points in the sky which emit brief but incredibly powerful bursts of very short-wave radiation. Since the phenomenon was first observed, in 1973, theories about their origin have abounded - from neutron stars to the warp drives of alien space craft.

Writing in the science journal Nature today, a team at the University of Alabama, coordinating an international effort, said they had seen a point of light to match the source of gamma rays. Usually such bursts are so brief that by the time a telescope can be trained on them, they have died away.

The team said the intense light, discovered 20 minutes after the

initial gamma rays, could have come from an explosive collision between two neutron stars - the incredibly dense remnants of burnt-out stars - at the far end of the universe. If this is so, the explosion would be the brightest in the universe, perhaps releasing as much energy in a few seconds as the sun does in a billion years.

The telescopes showed a blur in the sky which lasted for a mouth before it faded out.

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اعكذا من الاصل

The New Romantics: Barbara Cartland gives way to a world of gay embraces

Arts News Editor

The love scene is tender, passionate - and all-male. For the first time the winner of a major award for romantic fiction has among its protagonists two homosexual lovers. Romantic fiction appears to have found a mixture of voices for the Nineties. One is likely to be homoerotic; another is likely to be feminist; exploration of the anxieties of juggling employment with marriage is commonplace.

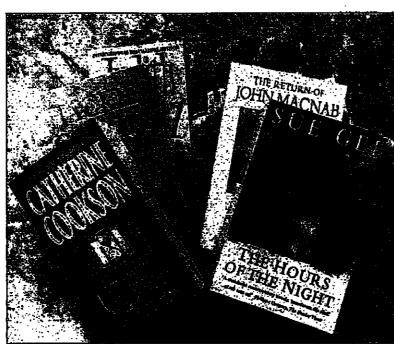
The genre remains the largest single sector of the adult paperback fiction market. But its subject-matter is no longer one that Barbara Cartland or Mills and Boon would easily recognise. Yesterday the £5,000 Romantic Novelist Of the Year Award was won by a university lecturer, Sue Gee. Her novel contains a staple of traditional romantic fiction, a virginal young woman pining after a rugged, handsome farmer. But from there it moves swiftly to fin-desiècle romance. The Hours Of The Night contains no love scene for the virginal poet heroine, but a passionate one between the man she desires and his homosexual partner.

Gee, who teaches writing and publishing at Middlesex University, plans to donate £1,000 of the £5,000 prize money to the English PEN Committee for Writers in Prison. She beat a shortlist that included Lisa Appignanesi, former deputy director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts. She has swapped putting on radical exhibitions and organising talks for the defence of Salman Rushdie for writing romance.

Yet their inclusion on a romantic fiction shortlist comes as a surprise to both of them. Perhaps that is a sign of growing pains within the Romantic Novelists' Association, which even as it gave the award, was balloting members about a change of name for its association. Or perhaps it is just a sign that romantic fiction is being belatedly redefined.

Gee said yesterday: "I was fairly astonished to be told that this was romantic fiction. This is the least romantic book I have written. It's about a woman who falls in love with A Good Woman on observing peoa homosexual man, and there's a ple in Paris. "I never think of myself strong homosexual relationship. It's as writing romantic fiction. But quite about different aspects of love. It's often there's sexuality and desire at nice to win, but I didn't see it as a the core of it, all those ICA words. romantic novel and I didn't even. Every woman of my generation is a know it had been submitted."

Appignanesi, who used to teach European literature, based her book award in 1994, said then: "The



Passion artists: In The Hours of the Night, Sue Gee (right) speaks with a very

Marketing millions

The romantic market accounts for a large share of total book sales: fig-

ures for 1996 show that the genre made more than £1.6 million for pub-



inshers during the 12-month period, writes Becky Lloyd.

Sales on the general market for the first 12 weeks of this year total 43,000 copies, to a value of £188,645. However, this figure does not take into account supermarket sales ole the amounts involved. The romantic be Pre romanuc desister as not week ending 12 April 1997:

1. Judith McNaught - Remember When (Pocket Books)

2. Marilyn Tracy - Code Name Deddy (Silhouette Books)

3. Betty Neels - Sister Peters in Amsterdam (Mills and Boon) 4. Sally Wentworth - Guilty Wif (Mills and Boon) 5. Betty Neels - Promise of Har

feminist, simply can't help but be."

shoulder-padded female with her belt notched with orgasms has gone, along with Porsches and Margaret Thatcher. Books that debate and emphasise some kind of values are coming back into fashion."

Lizzie Buchan, who won the grandson of John Buchan and who now chairs the Romantic Novelists'

piness (Mills and Boon)

Figures courtesy of BookTrack

Association, says romantic fiction has too often been confused with romance, which is nearer to the Mills and Boon novel. Romantic fiction, she says, follows in the tradition of g back into fashion." Jane Eyre and works by Hardy. In Far Mrs Buchan, who is married to the From the Madding Crowd, his heroine goes through three men. Out of that he sets a study of character and

"There are writers on our short-Hardy or Bronte if they wished to. The change now is that by and large the 19th century romantic novels stopped at the altar. The romantic

landscape which informs and en- look at marriage. They also incorriches the personal drama played out. porate our preoccupation with hulist who could begin to emulate But they still tend to have a strong narrative drive, whereas other writers are interested in words and mood." Writers and readers of romantic fiction largely continue to be novel today is much more willing to female. There are few men among

6Edward lay in his lover's arms and watched him sleeping ...

... the farmhouse was quiet: the deep, undisturbed peace of a Sunday afternoon, with the light fading at the window onto the yard. the covers heavy, love complete. Down in the unlit kitchen Tarn stirred in her basket, whimpered, settled again: it was so quiet he could hear the wicker creaking. and the steady tick of the clock, which drew breath and struck the hour.

Rowland, sleeping, heard it, and shifted, and opened his eyes.

"Ssh. Don't move." .He shook his head, reached for the watch on the table. Four o'clock. "Time for me to go, I'm

afraid." He kissed Edward's head, and made to get

"Not yet," said Edward. "Please, not

"I most." "Once more." "You can't mean it." "I can. All this time

without you." 'It's only a week." "Only? Only?" An extract from The Hours Of

The Night by Sue Gee the association's 400 members. But yesterday's shortlist did include a

man. Andrew Greig wrote The Return Of John Macnab, a sequel to a work by Buchan. He too says that he did not think of himself as writing romantic fiction, but is happy to be labelled a ro-

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or see an appointed travel

Trainspotting, Spice Girls and Gucci pants: Bishops reveal their worldly wisdom

Clare Garner

Nineties hishons know their Spice. Far from living in the Dark Ages, Britain's clergy are up to speed on popular culture, with a working knowledge of the Spice Girls. Trainspotting and Georgio Armani.

Shedding their image of spiritual detachment, all 32 bishops responding to a survey by The Church of England Newspaper, had heard of the Spice Girls. Although this might say as much about the omnipresence of the all-girl band as their own worldliness,, the bishops went

further. Unlike John Major and Tony Blair, who can name two and three of the Spice Girls respectively, one bishop, the Pakistani-born Bishop of Rochester, the Rt Rev Michael Nazir-Ali, could name all five and another, the Rt Rev Lindsay Urwin, the Bishop

of Horsham.could name four. Eighty-four per cent could put a name to at least one despite the fact that only 93 per cent owned a television set - and some had gleaned that the Spice Girls (allegedly) can't

One unnamed bishop, evidently a fan of Indian food, let the side down. He invented a completely new band member known as "Hot Spice". Another said: "Those are the girls who don't wear very much." Totting up their contemporary culture

cred, 81 per cent knew that The English Patient had won nine Oscars, 43 per cent that Irvine Welsh wrote Trainspotting, and 45 per cent that Phil de Glanville was the current England rugby union captain.

The survey, which is published tomorrow, also revealed that the bishops are au fait with fashion, with 68 per cent able to name a brand of designer clothing. Thir-

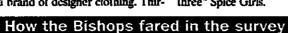
ty-two per cent said they enjoyed wearing the same brands as their flock, such as Calvin Klein and Ben Sherman, as well as watching the same programmes, such as Friends, Casualty, EastEnders and Neigh-

Some bishops admitted to using their street wisdom to get on to their congregation's wavelength. The Bishop of Bedford boasted that he had managed to slip Gucci underwear into one of his sermons, while the Bishop of Horsham chose to jazz up his sermons with references to songs such as "Search for the Hero" by M

People.

But despite its efforts to appear more Top of the Pops than Songs of Praise, the Church of England still has some way to go. A press release on the survey revealed that Bishop Nazir-Ali could "name all three" Spice Girls.







How many:

Knew Mulder and Scully starred in the X-Files: 34 per cent (11) Knew The English Patient won nine Oscars: 81 per cent (26) Had heard of the Spice Girls: 100 per cent (32)

Knew that there were five in the band: 84 per cent (27). One bishop named all five, one got four of the names and two others got two. Knew the book and film by Irvine Welsh on drugs was *Trainspotting:* 43 per cent (14).

Knew that Phil de Glanville was the current England rugby captain: 45 per cent (15) Named a brand of designer clothing: 68 per cent (22) - including Levi's (8), Gucci (5), Armani (3), Calvin Klein (2), Versace, Boss, Next, Dior, Lacoste. (Total bishops surveyed: 32)

Rembrandt found in antique shop

Simon Reeve

A lost work by Rembrandt, hickien for four centuries, has been discovered on the back of an oil painting sold by a Yorkshire antique shop.

The "exceptionally rare" copperplate by the Dutch master was only revealed when an art expert decided to take a closer look at the painting by the Flemish artist Pieter Gysels. After removing the Gysels

from its frame and examining the copperplate behind it, Liesboth Heenk from the Christies auction house "immediately" recognised it as a Rembrandt. Further research soon proved it to be one of only seven unsul-

the world. Rembrandt's etchings were highly-prized while the painter was working. He would use the plates to make reprints when he had run out of stock of a particular print. However, other plates were often badly reworked or restored and lost their original appearance.

According to Ms Heenk, the plate is of particular interest because it has never been reworked or restored and reveals the true mastery of Rembrandt's technique.

"This plate was used for one of the most superb of Rembrandt's etchings," said Heenk. "Of all places known to us, this

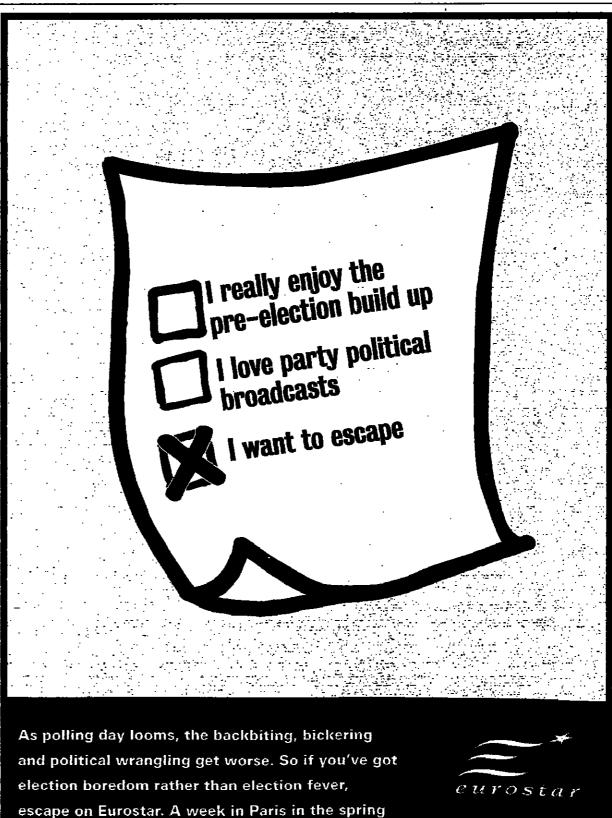
lied Rembrandt copperplates in one is certainly in the best con- to remain anonymous, bought dition as it was never reworked after Rembrandt's death. The fact that Pieter Gysels made a enjoyed the painting and adlandscape on the reverse makes the plate a very exciting historic document. The Rembrandt plate is en-

titled "Abraham Entertaining the Angels". It was cut in 1656, the year Rembrandt was declared a bankrupt. His precarious financial situation may have forced him to sell the plate. It is possible Gysel bought it directly, and then painted the landscape directly onto the copper surface some time before his death in 1691.

The family of the painting's present owner, who has asked

it in 1946 from a small antique shop. "My family have always mired the work of the artist, but imagine my amazement when it was divulged that there was a Rembrandt original hidden on the reverse," said the owner, "l was stunned - we had no idea."

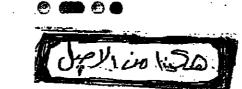
The copperplate and the pic-ture were displayed publicly vesterday for the first time in four centuries and will be sold at auction in June. Although the new owners will have additional wornes about how to insure the work, they will also have to decide how to hang the plate or painting: do they prefer Gysels or Rembrandt?



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Yacoub: Why I didn't tell of risk to baby

The pioneering cardiac surgeon Sir Magdi Yacoub told a judge yesterday that the risk of heart serious permanent brain damage was so small he would not tell the parents about it unless specifically asked.

new heart when he was just 16months-old, was replying to accusations that his team at Harefield hospital wrongly failed to warn the baby's parents of the

Biggleswade. Bedfordshire are suing Hillingdon Health Authority in the High Court for damages on behalf of their severely disabled son.

They say they would have refused consent for the transplant had they been told of the benefits, but would probably not risk, which tragically turned into reality.

The court has heard that Matthew, whose brain injuries occurred when he suffered a cardiac arrest during anaesthesia, was the only child to sustain brain damage among the 268 infants who have received new hearts at Harefield.

damage risk was less than one per cent. Parents were normally told transplant children suffering of the risks of death or other common complications, but brain damage was not common.

He told Simeon Maskrey QC, for the Poynters, that he Professor Yacoub, who gave could not recall speaking to Mr 10-year-old Matthew Poynter a and Mrs Poynter before Matthew's operation in December 1987, or whether he was told of their reluctance to consent to transplantation.

If he had been made aware possibility of brain injuries. that they were anxious to have Kevin and Linda Poynter, of all available information on that they were anxious to have potential disability, he would have felt under a duty to speak to them.

The judge asked Prof Yacoub that he would have told them. Sir Magdi said he would have spoken of the risks and have told them about the small risk of brain damage unless specifically asked.

"I did not consider then, and don't consider now, that serious brain damage is such a common condition that I ought to volunteer information," he said.

Questioned by Mr Maskrey, he said he was aware of the Prof Yacoub, a consultant car- critical nature of Matthew's diothoracic surgeon at the hos- blood circulation before the and is expected to end pital in west London since 1968, operation, but this was not un-

gave evidence that the brain common and he could not recall

being particularly concerned. He was aware that Matthew was considered incapable of receiving intravenous anaesthetic, but had no knowledge of the effect the halothane gas could have on his circulation. That is an anaesthetic matter.

said Prof Yacoub. Mr Maskrey suggested that, in that case, he had been in no position to assess the risk of the baby suffering a cardiac arrest

Sir Magdi disagreed, saying he relied on experience. The anaesthetist was very experienced and it was up to him to decide on the drugs used.

member of Prof Yacoub's team, denied telling Mrs Poynter that the hospital would have to consider seeking a court order if she continued to refuse consent to a transplant.

"I can't understand why I should have made such a statement to her," he said. If anygiving information to parents about the risks, he said.

The hearing continues today with expert medical evidence

Disarming act of the lone bagpiper



Calling the tune: Great Highland piper and tutor James Clark Caution playing his bagpipes on Primrose Hill in north London, yesterday on the 250th of the Disarming Act, which outlawed all aspects of Highland culture, including the bagpipes

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Door opened on the secret world of the marital dispute

Roger Dobson

The secret world of the marital row is being probed by researchers investigating the effects of domestic feuding on

teenage children. Volunteer children and their families are being quizzed about their relationships and some of them will be filmed as they discuss thorny topics like money, education, schooling, and inlaws. Psychologists will then assess how the children react and what situations they find the most stressful.

Psychologists at the Univer-sity of Wales, Cardiff, are recruiting 500 schoolchildren aged 12 to 15 and their families for a three to five year study into the effect of marital conflict on the children and its links with childhood depression and be-

havioural problems. One theory being tested is that children model themselves on the behaviour of their parents. Another is that youngsters come out better if the argument between their parents is settled in front of them. Yet another is that children who witness arnuments between their parents feel less secure in their own relationships with their parents.

The aim of the work is to come up with advice for parents on how feuding may effect their children, says family psychologist, Dr Gordon Harold. "Children clearly respond to

what is going on between par-ents. We will be looking at the children's perceptions of events and about depression, malad-justment and anti-social bethe child's understanding of or whether there is give and

Row stress: how children react

what is happening and the ef-fects. Are the effects, for ex-measures of agreement and ample, more potent if the child is the focus of the argument. he said.

"Conflict of some kind occurs in all homes. The bottom line to this research is finding information that will help parents understand how children interpret family events, how they view the sort of things that parents take for granted. We want to show parents how their behaviour can effect children."

In the first part of the re-search, the children will fill in questionnaires about their famly life, and the parents will complete similar forms about their

marriage and relationship. Parents will be asked, for instance, about marital satisfaction and whether, when disagreements arise, they result haviour. We will be looking at in husbands or wives giving in

measures of agreement and disagreement over a variety of domestic issues. Once the forms are done, the

researchers are planning a second phase in which some of the volunteer families will be filmed both in a family interaction laboratory at the university and in sessions at home. "At this observational stage.

some families who volunteer will come into the laboratory and sit in front of a camera and talk. After that we would like to put camcorders in some people's homes, maybe their kitchens, because you really need to see how they behave in their natural environment," said Dr Harold,

The team hope that by pinpointing what children find the most stressful, strategies can be introduced which will lessen the likelihood of behavioural prob-

Frustrated judge seeks rethink on verdicts

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

A judge called yesterday for a Scottish-style "not proven" verdict for England and Wales after a jury failed to reach verdicts for a second time on theft charges against a former Salvation Army financial adviser.

Judge Gerald Butler QC said no fault should be attached to the jury at Southwark Crown Court for failing to come to a decision as he formally ordered that Stuart Ford, of Halifax, West Yorkshire, be found not guilty on all counts.

But the judge told the court he regretted that the option of returning a not proven verdict, as in the Scottish legal system, was not available.

time a jury has split, the Crown not the first time a second jury

Prosecution Service will not pursue another criminal trial. although the Salvation Army has already successfully sued Mr Ford and others in a High Court action in 1995 for the loss

in 1992. Mr Ford was found to be personally liable for about £2m and the Court of Appeal later rejected his challenge against the

of a total of £6.6m from its funds

ruling. The not proven verdict is a half-way house between discharging the heavy burden of

proving guilt beyond reasonable doubt and an acquittal. The judge said: "My duty is to enter verdicts of not guilty

on these counts. "It does occur to me we might learn something from the Scottish jurisdiction. This is

has failed to agree in a case with which I am concerned.

"In the Scottish jurisdiction the judge asked the jury if they find the defendant guilty or not guilty or if the case against him is not proven.

"If we had a not proven verdict here it might assist in a case of this kind.

Major Peter Smith, the Satvation Army's Legal and Parhamentary Secretary, said: "Lam pleased to say donations have remained at strong levels in recent years, despite some mixinformed comments concerning the circumstances of the original loss in 1992

"Our supporters have clear. ly realised that the Army was a victim of fraud and their confidence was rewarded when we announced the full recovery of



Just suppose that you could stroll from the National Gallery to Poet's Corner without crossing a road...

Jonathan Glancey Architecture Correspondent

Imagine being able to amble freely, head in the clouds, from the early Italian Renaissance rooms of the National Gallery in London, across Trafalgar Square, down Whitehall and through Parliament Square all the way to Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey.

No chance of being run over by raging motorists, no stepping around civil servants' cars parked shamelessly in Horse Guards Parade. Enhanced settings for famous buildings and all but forgotten monuments. A Millennium project to

transform the heart of Westminster - "World Squares for All - was announced yesterday by Westminster City Council. Consultants led by the architect Sir Norman Foster have drawn up a plan to connect Trafalgar Square, Horse Guards Parade. Whitehall, Parliament Square and the Thames at Hungerford Bridge via a chain of pedestrian spaces and links.

The project, funded to date by the Heritage Lottery Fund (£125,000), the private sector and the consultants (£125,000), is to be the subject of public consultation in June and July. A revised plan will be implemented soon after so that "substantial elements", according to Westminster City Council, "will become a reality by ... 2000."

The consultants have produced options which include banishing traffic from nearly all of Trafalgar and Parliament Squares. Yesterday Sir Norman said at least a dozen major European cities had introduced pedestrianisation schemes on a similar scale. The costs of making the changes would range from a few million pounds to £20m at the most.

A visitor to the National Gallery today walks out on to a narrow strip of pavement separated from Trafalgar Square by a tide of fuming traffic and crazed cyclists. It is, by the standards of the world's great squares, a barren space dominated for most of the year by pigeons and, on New Year's Day, Scotsmen splashing in the fountains while Nelson on his column turns a blind eye. With Londoners can rest assured any detail. If traffic is to be throt- a step in the right direction.



Create strong links between new axis linking the Royal Enhance setting of the Cenotaph improve pedestnar

How it might be: An impression (left) of what Parliament Square, with St Margaret's church and Westminster Abbey, could look like if the plan (right) is realised

Trafalgar Square, Horse Guards tled along these arterial roads, Parade and Parliament Square where will it go? Without a cowill not become "heritage"style pedestrian precincts.

The "World Squares for All" project is not aimed at transforming the heart of London into a pedestrian play-pen or a heritage theme-park. The scheme aims to improve the flow of public transport and taxis, improve safety and minimise the diversion of "any consequential increases in traffic congestion and pollution."
This does raise the question,

which Foster and his fellow

ordinated plan and without an enhanced London Transport in public hands, improvements to Trafalgar Square and envi-rons well rob Peter to pay Paul.

Millennium plans for London need a degree of co-ordination that is impossible to achieve while life in the capital is increasingly subject to the uncertain laws of the market. Even so, the transformation of Trafalgar Square from a pi-geon feeding area and an annual bath for Scotsmen into a great

World cities that square up to the new pedestrian age Although many businessmen and council

Authory themy businessmen and council
leaders have always claimed local economies
suffer it cars and their wealthy passengers
are excluded from parts of city centres, there
is growing evidence that pedestrianisation can be financially beneficial. In cities across the world pedestrizes are intelly starting to

YORK: With its historic sites and traffic con-gestion, the centre of York was desperate ictions on the number of cers clogging its narrow streets. Pedestrian zones were introduced in 1987, and since then vehicles have been excluded from around the cathedral. In an area of seven major streets repides are excluded from 11 am to 4pm during weekdays and noon to 4om on Sundays. York aims to be the first city in Britain to take control of traffic, rather than being controlled by it. By 1994, 20 per cent of all roads had been traffic calmed, and on unped streets in the centre the speed limit is 20 mph. Accidents are down by two-thirds.

MILAN: Barning cars is relatively common

in Italy, and to liberate the congested heart of Milan the authorities have padestrianised streets and tried to improve the design of the area. To finit traffic chaos in the city centre, the authorities introduced a scheme the have a permit. The permits wild have ac-ets quired the spins of a winning lottery fichet, lur- are given to all residents, a limited number

of employers and delivery vehicles within cer-tain hours. Despite initial opposition to the scheme—court cases and protests—the lo-cal economy seems to base benefited and shops are reporting independ turnover. BOSTON: Planners say@boston is unusual among North American cities because the streets have evolved "organically" rether than along the typical grid said block structure. As well as improving bisycle routes and in-troducing traffic calming greatures in the cen-tre of the city, the Boston authorities are "undergrounding" one of the major arterial undergrounding one of the major anerial roads and turning the grea above ground into parts. Rogar Cooling, a transport and land-use planner, says that one of the most knowadye schames in North America

is to be found in Portland, Oregon, where a "skimny-streets" initiative – limiting the width of streets, curbing the speed of drivers and the amount of traffic – is operating. The amount of traine - is operating.

SYDNEY: Sydney is a relatively new city with wide, open streets where congestion is less of a problem than in London or other British cities. However, the authorities have pedestrianised Martin Place, one of the city's most important shopping streets, and have introduced traffic-ceiming measures, including the use of road humps and traffic islands. In Adelaide and Brisbane the authorities have also pedestrianised major streets with a resulting ncrease in turnover for the local econor.

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The parents who cheat for their children

Phoney addresses and religious 'conversion' help win school places

Education Correspondent

The rise in the number of cheating parents using false addresses and religious "conversions" to win places for their children at popular schools is forcing a

clampdown by headteachers and local authorities. Oversubscribed schools are now asking parents for proof of residence to catch out those who

falsely suggest they live within popular school catchment areas. Meanwhile, church schools are instituting more checks to ensure overnight converts with no church-going record do not jump the admissions queue.

A crackdown has been launched by secondary schools in Bromley, Kent, after a survey carried out this month revealed up to 82 families had

given more than one address and sometimes as many as four - in separate applications for places in September.

Schools in the borough, where some parents admit paying friends and acquaintances to borrow" addresses near favoured schools, are already asking for solicitors' letters confirming exchange of contracts on a house sale or proof of longterm rental stretching back at least a year before admission. Parents found cheating will have offers of places withdrawn.

Next year, the schools are considering asking all appli-cants for proof of residence, such as a utilities bill or council tax booklet, or may crosscheck addresses against the electoral roll.

The survey in Bromley, where every school selects at



Getting tough: Bob Cook, head of St Augustine's RC School in Trowbridge, is aiming to tighten admissions

least 15 per cent of pupils, provides the first hard-and-fast evidence of a problem known by authorities to be on the rise country-wide but never measured nationally.

"Marie", a mother of three who lives in Bromley and who insisted on anonymity, was one of the cheating parents. Her son secured a place on the basis of

Last November, the season of with a friend in a more affluent applications for secondary area close to the school of her ces, Marie left her husband and three children in the family home on a council estate in St Paul's Cray and moved in

choice. She gave the "borrowed" address as her own on the school application form. "I decided to use a borns ad-

dress after I had rung the school's admissions secretary and she told me I was outside the catchment area." Marie

> "I know a lot of people who have bought addresses, sometimes for as much as £180. I don't have that kind of money, but I would have cut down on food for myself and my husband to raise it. I'm a law-abiding person, but I would even have stolen if I had to."

Photograph: John Lawrence

Faced with the reality that one in five children is now denied their first choice of school (rising to one in two in London). parents desperate to squeeze their children into flourishing schools with high league table placings will resort to desperate measures. Their tactics include claiming they are on the verge of moving into an area, using a relative's address, or even temporarily splitting up, renting a flat for one partner close to the preferred school and registering it as the child's address, and then "reconciling" once an offer of a place is made. Others are prepared to pay

as much as £2,500 a month in rent for property within a catchment area. To secure places in church schools, which generally score highly in league tables, parents will begin to attend church with pious regularity, and may rush to have their offspring confirmed.

Augustine's Roman Catholic School in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, is typical of many popular church schools in introducing ever stricter criteria know their way round the systo try to sort true believers from sudden converts. Its key

admission category - baptised Catholic children - has just been split into baptised and truly committed Catholics.

Priests are given a detailed form on which to record church attendance of prospective pupils and are now asked not merely for support for applications but "support on religious grounds".

The heavily oversubscribed school, where 78 per cent of pupils gain five or more A-C grades at GCSE, is so popular that one Catholic parent living outside its catchment area plans to send her child on a 44-mile

daily round trip by taxi to attend. The headteacher, Bob Cook. said: "Every year we look at our admissions procedure and see how can we tighten it up Grant-maintained schools, which act as their own admissions authorities, are prepared to use home visits to parents as a last resort. Staff from Ecclesbourne School in Duffield, Derbyshire, have waited outside addresses offered on applications form to confirm suspicions that no child lives there.

Local authorities, like schools, confirm the number of parents prepared to deceive to get the school they want is rising, albeit often from a low base outside London. Calderdale. West Yorkshire, is typical in identifying an extension of parental manoeuvering to primary schools, as a means of securing progression to a favoured secondary.

The authority expects more shopping around during the next round of admissions as parents consider the new primary league tables published for the first time last month.

LEA leaders blame the growing trend on the Conservative government's deregulation of admissions and promotion of the concept of parental choice. Roy Pryke, chairman of the Association of Chief Education Officers, is calling for a summit with a new government on the admissions issue immediately after the election.

He said: "It is a matter of producing arrangements which still leave parents with the capacity to express a preference and wherever possible the right for them to have their choice, but at the same time to have arrangements which are much more co-ordinated than at present. At the moment, the weakest go to the wall. It is the children whose parents don't tem who suffer

How middle class families win the game

Judith Judd Education Editor

Schools are using covert selection to give middle-class parents the advantage in the race to secure places at schools with good exam results, according to research.

Comprehensive schools,

which say they are not selective, are interviewing parents and children to pick well-behaved pupils who will boost their league table performance, says the study from the London School of Economics.

control and can decide their own admissions policy. They are choosing children according to a bewildering array of admissions criteria including appearance, parents' occupation, career aspirations and hobbies. Comprehensive schools which used to be grammars

have opted out of local authority

are giving preference to the children and grandchildren of former pupils. The three-year study, which was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, involved interviews with 120 families whose children were

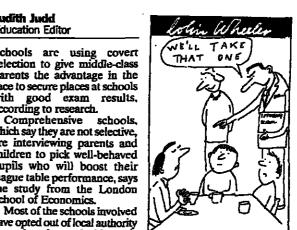
in and around London. It concludes that recent reforms allow a growing number of schools to decide their own admissions policies and select pupils and to admit children who do not live locally, favour-

transferring to secondary school

ing middle-class applicants.
The study found middle-class parents were no more likely than working-class parents to get their first choice of secondary school. But middle-class children were more likely to end results than their working class counterparts.

Middle-class children who failed to get into their first not part of the admissions choice of school often opted to criteria." travel to a high-scoring school which might be as much as 15

By contrast, working-class children who applied unsuc-



cessfully to a high-scoring school could not afford to travel and usually ended up at a

One single mother explained she could not afford the £10 fare needed to send her son on the 15-mile train journey to school to join his middle-class

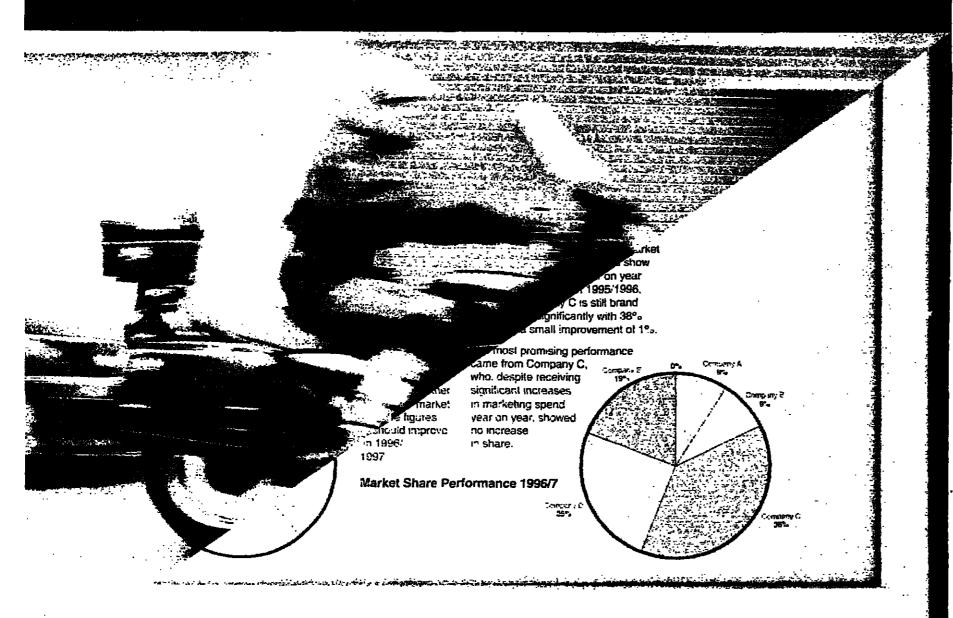
Ambitious working-class families who applied unsuccessfully to schools with good exam results eventually found themselves at lower-scoring schools than working-class families who had been less ambi-

Dr Anne West, of the Centre for Educational Research at the London School of Economics, said: "At least with grammar and secondary modern schools the selection process was transparent. Now all these other factors are involved in selection, it is less clear what is going on.

"The main problems are that covert selection is likely to lead up at schools with good exam to social selection and that application forms are being used to ask for information. such as appearance, which is

> She said some parents were so daunted by the information requested on application forms that they were put off applying

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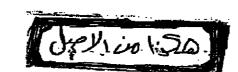
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Spring arrives a week earlier than in 1970s

Charles Arthur Science Editor

f you think spring seems early this year, you're right. The green shoots of regrowth now arrive a week earlier in the northern hemisphere than they did in the 1970s, according to analysis of satellite data.

While the news may be good for gardeners and sunseekers, it also provides the strongest indications that global warming. caused by the build-up of carbon dioxide from fossil fuels in the atmosphere, is well under way. The result could be calamitous changes in weather locally and globally.

Scientists at Boston University and the space agency Nasa compared satellite data which measured the amount of vegetation in the northern hemisphere from the period between 1981 and 1991 with that from the early 1970s. They found that plant regrowth after winter was happening sooner than before. other indications that global Other figures have shown that the period since 1980 has been the warmest, in terms of global temperature, for the past 200

The earlier plant growth is probably due to a combination of higher air temperatures and increased carbon dioxide.

Gardening in the Tropics, you never know what you'll turn up. Quite often, bones. In some places they say when volcanoes erupt, they spew out dense and monumental as stones the skulls of desaparecidos the disappeared ones. Mine is only a kitchen garden so I unearth just

was of a young man from the country who lost his way and crossed the invisible boundary into rival political territory. I buried him again so he can carry on growing. Our cemeieries are thriving 100. The newest addition was the drug baron wined out in territorial competition who had this stunning funeral complete with twenty-one-gun salute and attended by everyone, especially the young girls famed for the vivacity of their dress, their short skirts and

occasional skeletons. The latest

Brief Lives By Olive Senior

even briefer lives.

DAILY POEM

The Jamaican poet Olive Senior will be reading in Britain next week as part of the Commonwealth Festival of Literature, together with David Malouf, Mordecai Richler and Witi Ihimaera.

The events take place at the Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff on 23 April at 8pm; at the Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre, Leeds University, on 25 April, 6pm; and at the Pegasus Theatre, Oxford on 26 April, 8pm. "Brief Lives" comes from Olive Senior's collection Gardening in the Tropics (Bloodaxe).

tion will absorb some of the vegetation in high latitudes gains carbon emitted from consuming fossil fuels, it will not compensate for human-generated output, said Peter Cox, who is creating computer models of vegetation growth in global climate at the Hadley Weather Centre in Bracknell, Berkshire.

Professor Cox said: "Vegetation absorbs between 1 and 2 gigatonnes [thousand billion tonnes] of carbon at the moment, but that has to be compared to about 7 gigatonnes of fossil fuel output

The researchers, whose work is reported today in the science. journal Nature, said the effects of the "early spring" are not evenly spread, with central Europe, southern Russia and a broad region near Lake Baikal in Siberia the most affected. The changes are concentrated in the temperate areas of the hemisphere, between 45 and 70 degrees north.
The satellite data showed

warming is under way: a 10 per cent reduction in the length of winter snow cover from 1973 to 1992, and the earlier disappearance of snow in spring.

Professor Cox said that while the data might seem like good news, the effects of global warm-But while increased vegeta- problem is that although the

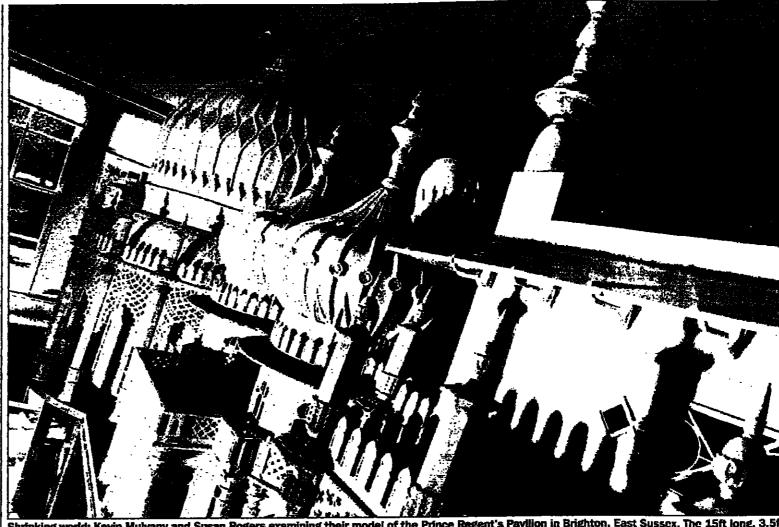
from the temperature and where - such as in the tropics and a reduction in vegetation."

The one positive note is that the results agree with the computer models developed at Bracknell, suggesting that their projections for climate change are soundly based.

■ The Army has stopped using flares and tracer rounds on thousands of acres of Dart-The commander of Devon

and Cornwall training areas. Lt-Col Tony Clark said units were not allowed to use tracer rounds, illuminating flares for night exercises, or anything likely to cause a fire.

The dry spell is worrying week will be "critical" for farmers who have just sown crops.



Shrinking world: Kevin Mulvany and Susan Rogers examining their model of the Prince Regent's Pavilion in Brighton, East Sussex. The 15ft long, 3.5ft high replica is to go to the Carol and Barry Kaye Museum of Miniatures in Los Angeles

Photograph; Tom Pilston

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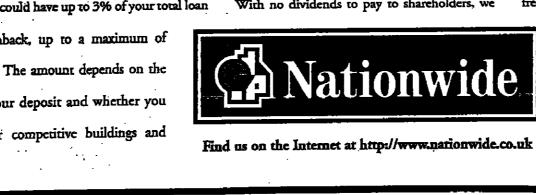
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on red bot plates, whilst the back of his legs are bit in time

to music. Onlookers taunt him and force him to drink beer.

US computer giant to run BBC finances

Firm founded by Ross Perot gets £40m contract to run Corporation's accounting systems

Kim Sengupta and Mark Rowe

An American computer company linked to the Iran-Contra scandal, and which once employed Mark Thatcher as a salesman, has picked up a 10-year contract with the BBC worth £40.5m in the first year alone.

This is the latest scalp for Electronic Data Systems, the company started by billionnaire and United States presidential can-

didate Ross Perot.

Mr Thatcher's appointment
by the company while it was pitching for a £1.6m Department of Social Security contract - and while his mother was Prime Minister-led to questions being asked in the Commons. It was the beginning of EDS' British connec-tion and the multi-national firm has since gained half the British government's information tech-

The BBC venture involves EDS, in alliance with the accountants Coopers & Lybrand taking over the Corporation's 30 financial systems and turning into a single shared unit. If the first-year project is successful. the BBC will give its whole financial operation to the EDS and Coopers.

The BBC has stated that no staff will be made redundant as jor, and potentially politically



project. But many of the 700 employees due to be transferred are believed to be on

short term contracts. The Corporation stresses that substantial savings are expected by the re-structuring, and the money will be ploughed back into programme making

The move represents a maa result of the EDS-Coopers sensitive scaling up of the

BBC's use of outside consul-

Last year it provoked Parliamentary action after adopting a plan outlined by management consultants McKinsey to restructure the World

John Birt was forced to back down by Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind and Overseas Aid minister Baroness Chalker who

HURRY - LAST 7 DAYS! OFFERS MUST END APRIL 23rd

THISKITCHEN

insisted on a blueprint of 20 safeguards to prevent the integrity of the World Service from being compromised.

The deal has brought the activities of the EDS into focus. Since arriving across the Atlantic, the company has infiltrating into some of the biggest instituitions and industries in Britain supplying information

EDS has long been embroiled in controversy. In 1987, a Congressional report on the Iran-Contra affair detailed how Mr Perot had supplied more than £1m for Colonel Oliver North's attempts to bribe hostage takers in the Lebanon.

Two Perot aids had flown the cash to Cyprus in suitcases. A print in the company's head-quarters illustrated a previous

international adventure where, it is claimed, former naval officer Ross Perot personally "sprang" two EDS executives from an Iranian jail. The operation was used by thriller writer Ken Follet as the basis for his 1983 bestseller, On Wings of Ea-

The British connection with the controversy began when Mr Perot put up Mark Thatcher at his Dallas mansion. Mrs Thatcher's son has just been "let go" by General Motors who had aken over his previous employers, Lotus Cars.

Mr Perot stated he was 'ashamed" of the way Mark Thatcher had been treatted after his mother's loyal support of the United States.
At the time EDS was ag-

gressively attempting to break into the British Government market for contracts on defence and information technology. Mark Thatcher was taken on its books as a sales consultant, although this was initially not known publicly.

The conduct of EDS had already been raised in the House Commons by Labour MP in Dalyell over allegations that the company had misled nigration officeis to avoid

> permits. Following this, Michael Casey head of London firm of lobbyists, Sallingbury Castle, who had been hired by the company, informed the Cabinet Office of Mr Thatcher's work with EDS.

There were repeated clashes in the House when Labour

MPs questioned the ethicacy of the arrangement EDS claimed that Mark Thatcher's work concerned the Far East, and not British contracts. Mrs Thatcher is said to have tiscussed the affair with her son,

people close to her maintained that she was not aware of Mark Thatcher's work for the com-

She visited Dallas four months later to see Mark, his new wife Diane Bergdon, and their baby son. She was introduced to a number of her son's business contacts.

How EDS rules the world

EDS was formed in 1962 and bought by General Motors in 1984. Split off from General Motors in 1996. If simploys more than 10,000 staff and serves more than 250 cistomers in tilk; where its client list includes: Chril Service; Department of Social Security's Benefits Agency. Chril Service; Department of Social Security's Benefits Agency. London (runs computer systems to support 2,5million benefits and persions payments each week); Child Support Agency. London (system maintenance and support); Intend Revenue, London (System maintenance and support); Intend Revenue, London (Christian (Christian Revenue, London (Christian Revenue), London (Condition (Christian Revenue), London (Condition (Christian Revenue), London (Condition (Christian Revenue), London (Condition (Christian Revenue), London (Cistabilishing new systems for storing court records); DVLA, Swanses (processing icence details).

Health: South and West Regional NHS Executive, Bristol (runs computer services); Grampian Health Authority, Aberdeen (creating a patient health card system).

Services in Lipedon: London Underground (Information systems); Metropolitan Police (creating computer network to link crime tracerials for all London police stations); London borooglis of Brenz, Kingston and Wandsworth (manage revenue) and benefits systems.

link crime records for all London police stations); London boscopins of Brent, Kingston and Wandsworth (manage revenue and benefits systems).

Other: Rolls Rolls Pic, Crewe (overall business improvement scheme); Alcours, Manchester (develop reservations and mance systems); Relie Karox, Ladoridge, Middlesex (worldwide plogramme of link company IT systems); Royal Bank of Scotland; Ediscoping Europe transfer system); Shell UK, London (process control); UK Chal Aulation Authority, London (administration systems); Virgin Atlantic Airlines, Crawley (information systems); Virgin Atlantic Airlines, Crawley (information systems); Allience and Leicester & Ginobank.

Offices in 42 countries worldwide – 23 countries in Europe, Africa and Middle Best: Turnover in this region was \$3.40n in 1896 and clients include: Netherlands: weden: Saab. France: France Telecom. algibility: European Parliament and Stratton records Power Grid. Germany: Deutsche Telecor Former Vugoslavia: Set up multimedia system to help UN High Commissioner for Ross Perot Refugees rounite families separated by war.
Also runs IT systems in New Zealand and for the government of South Australia. United States: IT for

Medicare and Medicald, General Motors, American Express Benk: South America: (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Veluzzuela) Asia (Singapore, Indonesia, Talwan, China and

Technology services supplier to 1992 Bercelone Olympics, 1994 World Cup in United States and for 1998 World Cup in France.

By 1984 the company had been bought by General Motors from Ross Perot. In turn the automobile giant split from it in 1996, it now trades on the New York and London stock exchange with its own independent board of directors. Its client list includes the Ministry of Defence, the Department of Transport, the Lord Chancellors Department, the Civil Avia-

tion Authority, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority and the Metropolitan Police as well as Rank Xerox, Vauxhall Motors, and Rolls Royce. It employs over 10,000 staff, and last year declared revenues of

Globally EDS straddles 42 countries, employing 100,000 employees. Last year its turnover was £9bn.



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Labour plays its health card

Christian Wolmar

Labour is moving onto its favoured home territory when it launches its campaign on the National Health Service this morning - recruiting Superman to help it with its cause.

While the timing had long been planned, Labour is delighted that it is playing its strongest card now when the Tories have already been badly weakened by their row over

A Labour source said last night: "We could not have hoped for a better time to move on to our agenda". He said Labour had a bigger lead on its competency to run the health service than on any other issue.

Labour will say there are "14 days to save the NHS" because the NHS would be unrecognisable by the end of a fifth Tory term which, the party claims, would lead to "piece by piece" privatisation and further use of internal markets creating more bureaucracy.

However, unlike previous election campaigns, Labour can no longer boast it will spend more than the Tories on the NHS. Instead it will focus on its greater efficiency at spending the money and at its plans to abolish the internal market and change the system for fund-

campaign, three Labour front- vate insurance? Who is your benchers - John Prescott, GP? If you have insurance or Margaret Beckett and Chris are registered with the right GP Smith - spoke at Lough-fundholder, you get priority.If borough, a key target seat which not, you go to the back of the has been deserted by Health queue."

Secretary Stephen Dorreil. Mrs Beckett cited the example of Christopher Reeve. the American actor who played Superman but who was paralysed in a riding accident and who has been expressing concern over whether he can afford his health bills. Mrs Beckett said he was "a man worth more than you or me, a man stricken down in the prime

of life, a man who wonders

openly what happens when the

money runs out She argued that the NHS was one issue where there was "clear blue water" between Labour and the Tories, saving: "There is no ideal more great, no design more grand, no new direction needed more desperately than in Britain's need for a health service fit for a new millennium".

While trying to eschew any new promises about the NHS, Mrs Beckett raised some hostages to fortunes by saying that under the Tories people have had to wait 12 hours on a trolley for treatment and have had their operations cancelled three times because there is not enough staff. She also asked: "Will the local casualty department be closed or just too busy to admit your child in an

Mr Prescott drew a picture of a semi-privatised health service: "When people come in Last night, as a prejude to the they are asked: do you have pri-



Fawity phone-in: John Cleese loosening up with Liberal Democrat supporters yesterday

John Cleese proves Lib Dems are game for a laugh - inadvertently

Education Correspondent

Row rages over

opting-out leaflet

A row broke out yesterday over a newsletter urging parents of 75,000 children in opted-out schools to vote for pro-opting-out election candidates.

A leaflet produced by PASS, a group representing parents of children in grant-maintained schools, says only the Conservatives plan to retain GM status if re-elected, then asks readers to vote to ensure the schools remain unchanged.

Grant Maintained Schools Parents' Association, came under fire for "brazenly" encouraging parents to vote Conservative. Local Schools Information, a pro-local authority schools ad-

visory body, also said heads and governors of GM schools could be breaking the law if they used pupils to distribute the

PASS, which defines itself as strictly non-political body, denied it was promoting one party and insisted it wanted parents to challenge all candidates over their views on opting out.

The PASS newsletter, called PassMark, is headlined "The vital choice you face about your child's future". It lists the achievements of grant-main-PASS, also known as the tained schools, and claims they have failed only in getting all political parties to agree about them. "We are shortly to have a General Election and, sadly, the future of your child's school may be at stake".

John Cleese turned Church House into Fawlty Towers yesterday, coming to the aid of his beloved Liberal Democrats in a somewhat flawed live "phone

link" with converts to the cause. The object of the exercise was a jocular trialogue between the comic, Paddy Ashdown and tame members of the electorate conducted at Church House in Westminster, live and

under the glare of the media. The problem was that some of the punters had not read the script. Neil Whinnerah, from the key seat of Southport, was the first up. His phone rang for some time. "He's not in," said lo," he said as if surprised. the election campaign, but was The man from Southport this what they had in mind?

said he had been meaning to become a member of the party for some time and that he had media seemed to be shaking unvoted for no one else. What was it about the political broadcast controllably during the phone - by John Cleese - which had link, apparently in mirth. At one stage the increasingly tetchy Liberal Democrat leader persuaded him to tie the political knot? "To be quite honest,

nothing," came the reply.

Mr Cleese then asked him chided the new member for failing to discern that he had taken what he had written in an imover the telephone. "I thought I was still talking to John," said Mr Whinnerah. "Surely you can tell passioned postcard to the Liberal Democrats. "Can't remember." Mr Ashdown prompted him the difference between our voicthat he had written on his cones," said Mr Ashdown. Then the untutored punter

cerns about the environment. "Did I?" was his reply. began to hold forth on unlead-The Liberal Democrats have petrol causing cancer. Mr Cleese. Eventually Mr always insisted that they want-"Where did you get that from

whom the issue of carcinogenic fuel came out of the blue. Mr Ashdown kept reminding

Margaret Heath, of Cumbria, was breathlessly supportive Mr Whinnerah that the press bria, was breathlessly supportive was present. Members of the humorous approach espoused by the Liberal Democrats. "I think we should laugh at

ourselves a bit more," she said. Taking the conversation to a higher plain, Mr Cleese volunteered that he has once interviewed the Dali Lama, "He said that when people laugh it loosens up their thinking.

The former member of Monty Python's Flying Circus began to loosen up himself when Brin Dimmot, from Basingstoke, came on the line. "Is your name an anagram?" he teased. "It's genuine. it's me," came the reply.

Kissable Tony brings a little spice to town

John Walsh mingles with Blair's enthusiastic fans in Monmouth

Outside the Punch House, a charming ancient pub in cobbled Agincourt Square, the Monmouth Spice Girls were

gening excited. Kelly, Ceri, Michelle, Sheryl and Catherine had all shame-lessly bunked off Maths at Monmouth's Comprehensive to clap eyes on Tony Blair. Why? "cos he's sexy," ventured Sheryl. "I am going to vote Labour," said Kelly, who is 18 and a little madam, "because they're going to help the poor and do more for young people. The Conservatives just help rich people. This world needs a change," she ended ringingly. Someone wondered if the abour boss would kiss the baby in the red, straw hat. "I wish he'd kiss me," breathed Ceri (16 and a bit of a minx).

The kissable Tony was in Monmouth to support Huw Edwards, who lost to the Tories in 1992 by 3,200 votes. His rival, Roger Evans, (now Junior Minister for Social Security) swiftly became the day's pan-tomime villain. As Blair fans with placards surged outside the pub and the photographers mounted their familiar barricade, a dark blue Volvo purred up and down the street; from its dim interior Evans' plumy monotone taunted the crowd. WHAT U-TURNS WILL LABOUR PERFORM NOW?" The car's loudspeaker rudely inquired. "ARE YOU ALLOWED TO ASK QUES-TIONS OR IS THIS JUST NOTHER PHOTO OP-PORTUNITY?" The crowd booed, except for a trio of Tory

ladies with blue rosettes and seats on the local council. On the wall behind the snapwho was born in Monmouth in 1387. Given his looming presence and the fact that we were in Agincourt Square, it was tempting to look for parallels: Mr Blair as Hal, super-patriot and God-annointed sovereign. Calling the Might of England to his side against the, er. French? No, that won't do. John Prescott as Sir John Falstaff, hard-drinking embodiment of old values, now fallen on hard times? Ron Davies, the shadow Welsh secretary (who was there) as Fluellen? There

was, however, no need to look tor an enemy to fight when you had Mr Evons ("WE SEEM TO BE WAITING AN EX-TREMELY LONG TIME. CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT FOR. THREE CHEERS FOR JOHN MAJOR") volunteering

for the part. Tony and Cherie arrive. beaming and waving. Mrs Blair betrays no trace of nerves at these events, gaily telling a black law student "gimme a call some time," when his minipupillage is over.

The baby in the straw hat (Molly Angharad Williams, 10 months) was proferred, but Tony declined to kiss her. He'd made a tine speech this morning about the "seven killers of a decent society", full of unusually concrete notions, but its tightful place in the news headlines had been gazumped by yet more tales of Tory disunity. He was clearly a little pissed off by

-MRFFWHWLLGG BAR RAWHYLLGOGOGOCH, intoned the unseen Mr Evans from further up the road. Either he was speaking in Welsh or his megaphone had been spin-doctored. "I'm delighted to see you, Mr Evans," said Blair, pleased to have even an incomprehensible heckler, "and I shall be even more delighted to wave you bye bye". Mr Evans honks off back to his lair. There's such an air of su-

premacy about the Labour leader now, all jutting chin and balled fists, you believe him capable of anything - going 10 rounds with Lennox Lewis, invading a neutral country. And perhaps it was the stone salute of Henry V over his head that ("No more division ... but a smooth unified one nation, a country that will look forward together with confidence. We can do it, for Britain, for Wales, for all our people").
Wild cheers. Two of the taff

Spices were grilled about their views before Mr Blair sadly concluded, "you're not really very interested in politics, are you? Well, there's plenty of time." The girls turned to the crowd, adoration shining in

their eyes. "That was cracking!"

they said. And it was.

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before vowing it would be regenerated. Yesterday she unveiled a plaque

THE HURRIED VOTER'S GUIDE

THE CAMPAIGN Overnight two junior ministers, John Horam and James Paice, made

overnight two junior minimizers, don't more and verses raice, made statements against a European currency which breached the Cabinet's negotiate and decide' policy.

Both released penitent statements saying they supported the Cabinet policy, but they had clearly had a dressing down from the Prime Minister. Delicy, but they had clearly had a dressing down from the Prime Minister. Mr Major told journalists the men had been 'extremely unwise', but made the constant that the men had been 'extremely unwise'. it clear he would not sack them. He also announced that unemployment and the borrowing requirement had fallen, but the good news was

targety Ignored.

Earlier, Labour had launched its policy on environmental protection along with a five-point plan for a skills revolution. The party's environmental protection spokesman, Michael Meacher, made a rare environmental protection spokesman, micreation meaning, make a rare appearance at its morning press conference to promise a task force to improve the environment, increase awareness of it and tackle youth unemployment. The response, again, was a barrage of questions on

The Liberal Democrats press conference encountered similar problems attempting to highlight plans for a levy to stop water leakage. Later, Paddy
Ashdown hosted a phone-out session to voters with John Clesse.

KEY ARGUMENTS

John Major made an impassioned plea, apparently to Euro-sceptics in his own party; on behalf of official Tory policy. He had been 'scarred' by Britain's departure from the Exchange Rate Mechanism and would be cautious before taking the bigger step into a single currency, he argued. To take a firm line now on the issue would be 'splendidly decisive, So splendidly decisive you would sand a British Prime Minister naked into splendidly decisive you would sand a British Prime Minister naked into splendidly decisive you would sand a British Prime Minister naked into splendidly decisive, you would sand a British Prime Minister he sald. Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, said the Prime Minister's statement 'sounded like a rehearsal for his resignation speach. Everything the said seemed not to be directed at the immediate issues but at defining his place in history. But, the more he went on, the more he seemed like a

ne said seemed not to be directed at the immediate issues but at defining his place in history. But, the more he went on, the more he seemed like a man who has lost control of events.

Meanwhile Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, was defending the validity of the latest unemployment figures, saying 'more and more people are getting jobs and enjoying rising living standards. New Labour's policies, like the national minimum wage, would, as John Prescott rightly tells us, put millions of these jobs at risk."



Martin Bell's nomination forms were accepted yesterday, after overcoming a challenge from Neil Hamilton, who questioned Mr Bell's right to stand under the independent banner. Apart from Mr Hamilton, Mr Ball will face eight

other contenders in his Tetton constituency. They include the formidable Miss Moneypenny the Transformer (of the Miss

Moneypenny's

Glamorous One Party).

had to re-think his campaign strategy following the outbreak of feuding within the Government over Europe.

morning press conference to make an impassioned plea to Euro-sceptics to toe the party line. He then decided nastily to re-shoot last night's election broadcast to focus on Europe, rather than on optimistic economic news.

Yesterday was an

appailing day for John Major, who

ONE TO REMEMBER

Michael Heseltine said that the row over Europe was absolutely unimportant in the context of the formation of the next government and the leadership the Prime the next government and the azadership the Prime Minister will give us over the next five years". He blamed the press for hijacking the campaign by "talking about these things which the general public are quite content to see on the sidelines". "Do you know what the essence of this is? It is the genius of John Major," he said.



The man whose wife and two stepdaughters were seduced by Alan Clark has arrived in the Kensington and Chelsea constituency to campaign against him. When Clark admitted the affairs in his Dianes in 1993, James Harkess said the former minister should be horsewhipped. Today he insisted that his decision to come over from South Africa and campaign for Labour was "nothing to do with any vendetta ... I have forgiven Alan Clark".

THE OTHER PARTIES Sinn Fein's senior spokesman Mitchel

McLaughlin insisted that a vote for his party was not a vote for the IRA. He said that he knew nothing of speculation that the IRA might call a ceasefire before the election. "If it happens, it happens," he said. "These are matters for the IRA – and outside the control of Sinn Fein." Meanwhile, the Scottish National Party announced that they were launching a fresh attack on Labour, unleashing a Scottie and two Westle terriers to take on Labour's buildog. "With our wee Scottie dogs we are biting back," they declared.

MEDIA STAR



Baroness Thatche continued to polish her egacy, visiting the now prosperous Teesdale Park in Cleveland. Ten years ago The Independent photographed her striding across the derelict site.

bearing words spoken on her previous visit.

Number of women MPs set to double

many women MPs in Parliament after the election, according to figures released last night by the Fawcett Society. As nominations for 1 May

contesting seats in the election. Of those, the society believes stituencies or where a swing of would be breached for the first

There could be nearly twice as secure them victory. This result would transform the Commons where there were 62 women members last time.

Women would make up around 17 per cent of the Commons compared with 9.2 per closed, nearly 400 women were cent of the representation during the last session.

Even with a six per cent

less than eight per cent would time. Mary-Ann Stephenson, secure them victory. This result of the Fawcett Society, said: "I think that creates a critical mass which is important. One of the problems a lot of women MPs have is they need to show they

can cut it as well as the men. "Once we get more women in, it will be easier for them to address issues which are not seen as serious political issues 111 are standing in safe con- swing, the magic 100 mark at the moment, like how we deal

She said the vast majority of women were in unwinnable seats. Although all parties had trumpeted the number of female candidates they were fielding, what mattered was whether

they were likely to get elected. On an eight per cent swing, Labour will have 92 women compared with 54 at present and the Tories 15 after the election. This would represent a smaller female presence on

the Conservative benches as there were 25 women in the last party needs more than an eight Cumningham.

Ten Tory women defending candidates are fighting safe seats. Seventeen female Labour defending candidates have safe scats and another eight of its new candidates look virtually certain to win.

None of the Liberal Democrat women MPs has a safe sear - defined by the Fawcett Sociper cent swing - although Ray Michie in Argyll and Bute is

candidates are fighting in constituencies where they need a swing of more than 25 per cent to get elected. The society believes two Scottish National Party will have two women after the election - defending candidates

Cunningham.
Ms Stephenson said: "It will be important that a number of women are all entering at the thought likely to be returned. women are all entering at the All seven Plaid Cymru women same time. If there is a huge chunk of women all new to-gether, it will be easier to back

each other up." A Labour Party spokesman said they had 90 target seats and women candidates in exactly half - as they had hoped to

achieve under the controversial all-women shortlists procedure which was ruled illegal.

Up to 5,000 people are expected to comest the general election compared with just under 3,000 candidates in 1992. In addition to candidates for the main parties, pro-life cam-paigners, the Natural Law Party and the Referendum Party will be standing in many



to the wilderness

Peter Popham

er's walkabout in Teesside yesterday was practically Biblical, mosaic. Tory miracles: the desert seeded, sprouting multiplex cinemas, fitness centres, marinas. bingo halls and uni-

Nearly 10 years ago, Margaret Thatcher strode, face clamped in a frown, across the rubble and scrub of Teesside's urban dereliction. Yesterday she returned to the site - where once dandelions blew about and the unlawfully tipped rubbish festered, rows of twee, red brick, gable-ended Eightiesstyle buildings have sprung up.

The Teesside Development Corporation site, claimed to be esting." The truth, however, the higgest redevelopment site

promise redeemed. This is where I stood 10 years ago," she said as if remembering vividly. "It's been transformed! Totally transformed!"

press pack's attention away from ministerial dissent on Europe, it was a bold one - and almost selfless on Lady Thatcher's part, given her own passionate hostility to Europe.

There was a half-hearted attempt at the start of the day to keep her involvement in the proceedings secret. At the morning press conference, John Major said coyly: "I have to catch a plane to go to Teesside for something I hope you will find more than usually interwas out of the bag almost at

in Europe, is Lady Thatcher's once, chased vainly by Tory press officers. "I'm telling you that we are not allowed to give a definite confirmation for security reasons," one said. "Her people will pull her."

Lady Thatcher remained unpulled, however, and the event billed as "Lady Thatcher's Walk In The Wilderness, now a walk in the Teesside Development Corporation" went ahead as scheduled. For Teesside is an important, indeed a desperate,

Tory front line.
To the north is the Lake of Red ,which covers all of industrial Tyne and Tees, including the constituencies of Peter Mandelson (Hartlepool) and Tony Blair (Sedgefield). To the south are the very different realities of rural North Yorkshire. Teesside was decimated in the recession

of the early Eighties When Iwis- ter, and the former prime minited Hartlepool, one of the bleakest spois in the region, five years ago, it was noted principally for monstrous unemployment and hard drinking.

a changed place and the development corporation set up after Mrs Thatcher's visit (and due to be wound up later this year) demands much of the credit. With the media penned be-

hind industrial-strength barriers, a BBC helicopter circling overhead and a cavalcade of Range-Rovers and Jaguars, it was a visitation worthy of a living legend - only slightly spoiled by a *Mirror* van trucking back and forth on a nearby road pumping out the Labour campaign song.

It was, in fact, a painfully artificial event: the Prime Minis-

ister padding down the road smiling, waving, pressing local Tory flesh. They then unveiled a plaque and shovelled some dirt over an already planted and soming cherry tree.

Lady Thatcher was mute as she has never been mute before. Besides gasping over the transformation her walkabout had set in train, and waving to invisible crowds hovering in the air, her part was a walk-on. "Mr Major, why don't you

sack these foolish ministers?" one reporter asked repeatedly as Lady Thatcher stood, lips pursed, by his side. "Lady Thatcher would have sacked them!" Mr Major mustered an old fashioned look - as if to say, "try that once more and she'll bite your ear off".



by Aanonymous

6 They're a

rabble led by a

weed, we're a

led by ... me 🤊

engmeer had patched a conference line into the large suite of the south coast hotel. So now the Candidate and Big Al waited for the call from headquarters. Through the hall leading to the suite's living room (virtually indistinguishable from her own at home), Mrs Candidate

could be heard talking gently on another line to each of her children in turn. Back in the bedroom, newspapers lay scattered on the bed, the floor and most of the chairs; the headlines all agreeing that the Grey Man

was in deep and terrible trouble.

The electronic box on the coffee table coughed. Big Al lent forward, pressed a button and said, "Okzy, we're on", into it. "Good morning!" said friend Bobby from 60 miles away, his soft voice sounding like damp sand slipping down a children's slide, "and

what a lovely morning it is!"
Al smiled at the Candidate. The press stories of Bobby and the bull dog, plus the accom-panying photographs of the spare, sharp-suited strategist rolling on the floor with a baggy pooch, had been camp classics. Last night they had been speculating that Bobby might hang on to the animal beyond the election, and come to the dispatch box with it in tow company for Blind Lemon

do - a voice of rich (if gloomy) colour. "We

The Candidate went on, "Al is sure that we should feed some comment on the Grey Man's predicament into this morning's speech. There were disembodied noises of assent down the line from London: one gruff, the other sibilant. "I just thought we should talk through our responses."

The main thing is that we let them stew as much as possible in their own juices," said Bob-by smoothly. "We just get on erecting our sev-en pillars and whatever — and keep to our splendid plan. When asked we sigh, and make clear how pathetic they are, how totally unfitted to govern etc. As far as I can see the big casualty in all this is their negative campaign: it's much harder for them to suggest what a dan-

gerous bunch we are when they are squabbling like this. The only peril we have to be on guard for is that they might push it so far, that they actually come out the Other side a genuinely anti-Europe party. That could - as we've always known - be a problem for us. As we also know, that depends on whether Blokely goes quietly, or decides – as the most successful Tory chan-

cellor in history - to make a fuss.

"Right," said the Candidate. "What differ-

entiates us from them is that they're a rubble led by a weed, and we're a purposive party led by ..." he paused, smiling, "... me. We're just as patriotic as them, but we're in the best position to defend British interests, because Someone groaned a small, barely audible

groan. It was Mr Brown. There followed a short silence which he then broke, his voice hitting such low registers that his listeners strained to catch his words. "I just want to express a worry. Whenever we get a row like this inside the other party, the European argument goes by default. He warned to his theme.

purposive party 'All you then hear is the sound of politicians falling over one another to tell the country how anti-Europe they are. And we, of course, have to respond. Look what's

"Morning, Bobby!" replied the Candidate grinning, "Is Mr Brown with you?" "Yes, I'm moved from being in principle in favour of monhere," came a Scot's accented basso profun- etary union; then in favour, but with a referendum; then doubtful about the first wave; then doubtful in the lifetime of the next partiament. But if the bloody thing happens - and i still think it will - are we are going to have painted ourselves so far into a corner that we can't

join even if we want to?" The Candidate sighed. The truth was that no one could see into the future. But unlike Mr Brown he could envisage life outside a single currency, if that was what the British people - his people - really wanted. Their attitudes were also a reality; in political terms they were concrete.

"Good point," he replied. "If it's in Britain's

interests we will go for it. That's the test, rather than something abstract. Britain's interests!" "And where would that have left us in 1938?" muttered Mr Brown. But by that time the line



There's not enough vision in Blair's New Labour

How will you vote?

I've been a lifelong Labour supporter, so of course I'm pleased that we are probably on the verge of a Labour victory. I've waited too long for a change of government. And yet I'm uneasy. I don't think a Labour government is going to solve all our problems. The flaws of British society are far too fundamental. This is partly because the public's perception of politicians is so low: the knock-on effect of the recent scandals mean that politicians, you?

regardless of party, appear as tainted as each other. This results in a distressing level of apathy.

People think things are going to get instantly better; that the gap between the haves and have-nots will be bridged. But this is not quite the case. I think change will happen, but it will be gradual. I believe that the British public are inherently conservative. But I believe that a positive attitude towards our society means having a social-

What issues are important to

HOW I WILL VOTE: ART MALIK

We all want, and deserve, a Utopia for our future genera-tions. If we go by what the manifestos are saying, education is the number one priority. It is generation properly, and that they are brought up with the support of a good National Health Service. But I don't think there is enough a vision to Tony Blair's New Labour for the inequalities in society, in education and health services. to be corrected, in the short term at least.

I'm in favour of rethinking the constitutional system and the possibilities of Proportional Representation. After all, the last government was voted vital that we educate the next in by only approximately 40 per generation properly, and that cent of the vote. But the entire system needs to be fundamentally rethought. The voting system seems an anachronism. When your MP hears the division bell after staying up in a bar for the vote, he is goaded, probably drunk, into the lobby, chosen by a select few leading the party.

Would you consider voting Liberal Democrat?

Under the boundary changes since the last election, I now live in the borough of Richmond. Dick Tracey is my MP, and in this staunch Conservative constituency, voting for Labour is a bit like pissing in the wind. With the Liberal Democrats firmly in second place, it would be better to vote for them to make sure that the seat did not go back to the Conservatives. But I've been committed to so-cialism and the Labour Party for too long to not be behind them on a national basis and see them though this election.

This encapsulates my problem with the voting system and this campaign in particular. Does it really matter how I vote at all? After all, the important thing is not how you vote, but

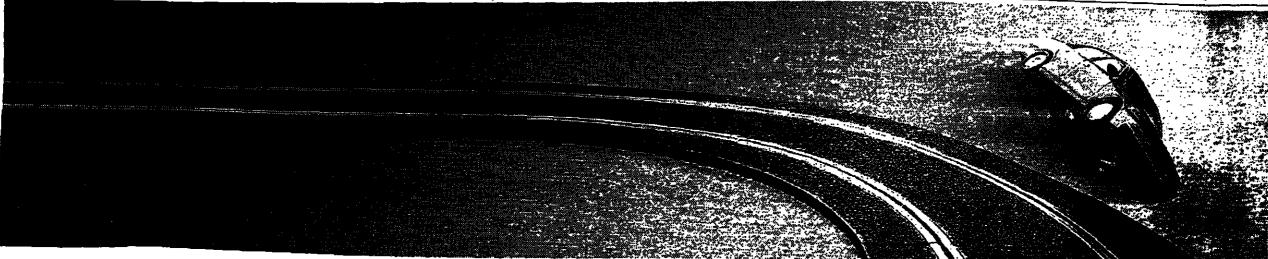
what happens after. Are there any politicians you

admire? I cannot think of any politician alive who I really admire. They all lack an overall vision. unlike people like Ghandi who I greatly respect. Tony Blair may claim he has a vision but I simply don't believe it. Whilst reading last week's reports of each parties manifestos, I simply

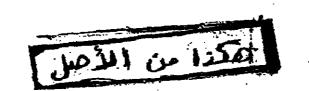
to any of them. All we get is the work of the spin doctors with their soundbites.

When did you first become interested in politics?

When I was about 14, living in the Tory heartland of Wandsworth. I got involved with Geoffrey Robinson, who lived just over the road and was my friend's elder brother. It was the end of the Sixties and we were faced with a country in a terrible state - the miners' striking, the three-day working week, the National Front. Interview by Sam Coates



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uble Jobs news fails to deflect Euro row

Diane Coyle and Fran Abrams

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The economic news favoured the Conservatives once again. Government borrowing last year was well below the Budget target, while last month brought another big drop in the number of peo-ple claiming unemployment benefit, according to official figures.

The jobs figures reflected the booming economy. The headline unemployment rate fell to 6.1 per cent, the lowest for six years. Employment climbed by 135,000 in the three months to February, with just over half of it full-time.

More women are in work than ever before, now accounting for more than twofifths of the workforce. But male participation in work has continued to decline.

Paul Gregg, a researcher at the London School of Eco-nomics, said: "Women will overtake men in the early years of the next century. We will have a female-dominated labour force overseen by male managers."

The latest fall in unemployment figures was at the centre of a dispute yesterday after opposition parties claimed a government report showed that large sections of the population were being left out of its calculations. As official figures recorded the number of people out of work and claiming ben-efit falling by 41,100 to 1,707,000 last month, Labour and the Liberal Democrats said many young people, women and old-

er men had been excluded. The Prime Minister had clearly hoped that the optimistic figures would divert attention from the row over Europe. However, the news atpeatedly whether anyone want-

ed to question him on it. When he was finally asked about unemployment, the emphasis was on the dispute over how the figures were compiled. In its application for European Social Fund grants to tackle long-term unemployment last December, the Government suggested that levels among young people, women and old-er men were understated in its official figures. Those seeking work but not immediately available were also excluded

Gillian Shephard, the Secre-tary of State for Education and Employment, said countries were allowed to submit claimant figures plus information on other measures such as disability.

Labour's treasury spokesman, Alistair Darling, said the remark amounted to an admission that the government's figures did not tell the whole story. "The Government should now come clean and admit in public what they are saying in private, that the claimant count does not reflect the real level of unemployment," he said. Don Foster, the Liberal De-

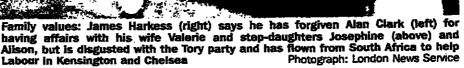
mocrat employment spokesman. said that in addition to those who were out of work but off the figures, there were also many people on low pay, short-term contracts or in insecure jobs. Kenneth Clarke seized on the

the gap between spending and revenues was £22.8bn, £3.6bn below his target for 1996/97. The Chancellor said this was "evidence of the healthy state of Britain's public finances". The figures were better than

forecast thanks to below-target spending and higher tax revenues. The sale of the Ministry of Defence married quarters and the student loan book trimmed









Husband on moral mission against Clark Harkess joins Labour on Kensington doorsteps, reports Clare Garner

The coven has come back to haunt Alan Clark. His campaign to win safe Kensington and Cheisea in west London may not be the comfortable ride he

was hoping for.
James Harkess, whose wife and two step-daughters were seduced by the former defence minister, is on a "moral mission" to canvass for Mr Clark's Labour opponent.

Mr Harkess, a barrister and former judge, has flown half way round the world to campaign on behalf of Robert Atkinson, the Labour Party candidate in Kensington and Chelsea. He is, be says, sick of yesterday's Tory party news £1.4bn from expenditure. Thuy sleaze 111 and intends to join Mr Atkin- Tory. He even stood as a Con- say what I think is right and what

The last time Mr Harkess son regularly in the run-up to came to Britain from his home

in South Africa was in May 1994 when he told the News of the World that Mr Clark deserved to be "horsewhipped" for hav-ing a simultaneous affair with his wife and her daughters Al-ison, 39, and Josephine, 37. In his memoirs, Mr Clark described the three women as the "coven".

This time he is spreading his message door-to-door. He has ported the Labour Party as a already been out canvassing with 91-year-old Lord Longford

the general election. His wife, Valerie, 59, was due to join him

in Britain yesterday.
"Clark is a man unsuitable for politics," said Mr Harkess. "It's his dishonesty as well as his sexual peccadilloes," he added. "I think I should be able to say what I believe and try to stop that which is ugly, dishonest and

Although he briefly supotherwise been a lif

servative candidate for Brixton in south London in the 1970 election, declaring himself a supporter of Enoch Powell's position on immi-

Mr Harkess denies that he is wreaking revenge on his old ri-val. "This is nothing to do with any vendetta or anything of that kind," he said. "I don't believe in vendettas. I have forgiven Alan Clark."

I think is wrong. And one of the things I think is very right - and I want to be positive not negative - is what Tony Blair is doing in the next two weeks in order to become Prime Minister of this country."

He is, he says, disgusted with the Conservative Party. "It's the whole question of trust, honesty and leadership, and of course, moral and family values," he said, claiming there He added: "That doesn't were about 30 Conservatives teenager, Mr Harkess, 67, has mean that I don't have a right who "could be labelled sleaze

"What is bringing the election election now."

down is that there is too much sleaze going on in the Conservative Party, he said. "There is something very wrong with the state of the country when the Prime Minister cannot do anything about that and put it

Mr Clark said yesterday: "He [Harkess] says he has forgiven me. Well, that's very generous of him and very Christian of him. I have expressed contrition the last time this was raised four years ago and the episode is 20

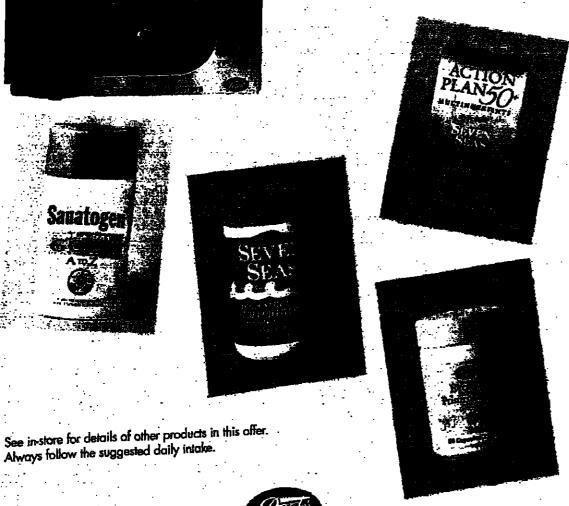
years old. "I don't like talking about it. It's very, very old. It really is his-toric and I am trying to fight an

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MEDIA WATCH

Jobless

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The Conservative Party's

election broadcast schedule was

scrapped yesterday so that the

Paul McCann

Media Correspondent

Blair sets out basics for a Labour Britain

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Tony Blair yesterday offered to create a decent society founded on "the seven pillars of security", the basic building blocks of Labour policy.

In a lecture in Southampton, the Labour leader deliberately set out his positive policy stall, as an alternative to the personal attacks and negative campaigning of the Tories.

But that did not stop him contrasting the political stances of the two parties - and portraying the Conservatives in a highly negative light.

After 18 years of Conservative government," he said, "Britain is more divided and less equal than at any time since the

"It will be a new Labour government's task to rebuild Britain as one nation, where every individual has a stake in its future, where we treat poverty and unemployment not as but as intolerable in any decent society true to the best of British

The Conservatives say: choose between self-interest and the good of society. I say any sensible view of self-interest recognises that the stronger, more unified a society is, the better for the individuals within it.

"More than that, we cannot confront and overcome the problems of health, schools, action on unemployment, security in old age - as well as new problems like environmental degradation - unless we face the challenges together.

This is the case for collective action: Britain cannot be one nation unless it is prepared to act as one nation. "As leader of the Labour Party I have made it my goal to create a decent society based on security for all in a world of

"It is that decent society that the Tories are incapable of cre-

problems we shut out or ignore, ating. They believe number one was offering, instead, "seven comes first in all things.

"They believe inequality is a sign of success. They see insecurity as the only spur to activity. So they denigrate the things that we hold in common - the health service, the basic pension, public education."

Mr Blair said that a few at the top were well-off and secure, but there was an insecure majority and a large and anxious group in the middle. If the election was to be

record, and on what they offered, people would be appalled and terrified. Terrified at their abolition of

the state pension; terrified at their plans to strangle the health service; terrified at the prospect of a growing Tory 'underclass'; terrified at the idea of four out of five schools being turned into secondary moderns; terrified at the idea that Britain cannot be better than this." The Labour leader said he

change: A world class education system; a modern, comprehensive NHS with the peace of mind that comes from knowing it will be there when you need it; security and dignity in retirement; freedom from the fear of crime and security in our communities; quality housing, a welfare state that promotes independence; and strong social institutions - from the family upwards - that promote fought on the Conservative mutual responsibility and a record, and on what they spirit of public and voluntary He concluded: "Together,

pillars of security in a world of

you and I will begin to build the new society, a society in which each of us has the chance to grow, to achieve, to contribute, to create dignity for ourselves, and not for ourselves alone, but for others also; a society in which each of us has a stake, a share; and we will give back to our children what they deserve

Bell beats off last ditch bid by Hamilton to stop him irrelevant. "I'm standing as an nation papers and allow Tatton's scription of candidate Simon Jojo Moyes

The battle for the hearts and ballot slips of Tatton's voters took another bad-tempered twist yesterday when the Tory candidate Neil Hamilton launched a last-ditch attempt to scupper the electoral chances of his rival, Martin Bell, by lodging an objection over Mr Bell's use of the word "independent". Along with nine other can-

didates, Mr Bell had his nomination formally accepted yesterday, describing himself as an Independent. He had planned to describe himself as "Independent Anti-Corruption", but withdrew the words "anti-corruption" following the threat of legal action.

Speaking after his nomination was accepted, Mr Bell, who was proposed by former Tory councillor Laurence port," Mr Hamilton said. "I call Hobday, said that his title was

Independent but everyone knows it's on an anti-corruption

As he formally launched his election campaign with a walk-about in Alderley Edge, in Cheshire, he revealed that he was also being supported by two former mayors, one Labour and one Liberal Democrat, two war veterans and an England cricketer. "He's going to teach me to deal with the bouncers that may be coming my way," Mr Bell said.

The first came just hours later, with the news that Mr. Hamilton's agent had launched a formal objection to Mr Bell's description of himself as Independent.

"Bell is not an independent candidate. He is a stooge of the Labour Party with Liberal supon him to withdraw his nomi-

voters a real choice between political parties.' But the acting returning of-

ficer, chief executive of Macclesfield Borough Council, Brian Longden, rejected the complaint by Mr Hamilton, the former minister at the centre of the cash-for-questions row. A spokesman said: "The acting returning officer has replied to say he cannot accept the objection as valid. Martin Bell's nomination is valid."

Mr Bell described the attempt as "a desperate effort by a desperate man". "I was nominated by a Conservative councillor ... so Mr. Hamilton cannot claim that my nomination was anything other than to-tally cross-party," he said.

As the list of candidates was closed at 4 pm yesterday, there initially appeared to have been another twist, with the deKinsley as an "Independent Conservative

But just half an hour later, rather embarrassed spokesman for the council admitted that the description had been a mistake, and that the candidate was, in fact, simply Independent.

Other candidates standing in Tatton are: David Laurence Bishop, Lord Byro v The Scallywag Tories Party; Sam Hill, Independent candidate; Michael Paul Kennedy, Natural Law Party; Simon Lowther Kinsey, Independent candidate; John Richard Muir, Albion Party; Ralph Nicholas, Independent candidate; Burnel Craig Penhaul, commonly known as Miss Money Penny the Transformer Miss Money Penny's Glamourous One Party; and Julian Matthew Price, Juice Party.



Teesside seat could spring a surprise

Tim Devlin is mildly displeased. A local bookmaker has just made him the narrow favourite to hold on to his marginal seat of Stockton South, a rare Tory foothold in the North-east.

"I think I prefer it when people are doing me down as the underdog," explained Mr Devlin, busy door-knocking in a key ward. But it is not unexpected. "I suppose I have a track record for surprising results." Clinging on to his majority of 3,369 would certainly be sur-

prising. The Teesside constituency is one of 90 "must win" seats for Labour, and at 64th on the list and according to form and party analysis, a win here would give Tony Blair's party a small overall majority. Mr Devlin, whose narrow

trend-bucking ousting of the So-cial Democrats' Ian Wrig-glesworth in 1987 made him the youngest Tory MP at 27, is un-daunted. Cheerily shaking the hand of each voter who crossed his path, the former barrister seemed remarkably relaxed about being written off as a Tory loss as he shepherded his canvassing team around the houses. "We have heard it all before and we have fought back."

His campaign themes are no-tably local issues. He claims that even Labour voters regard him as an approachable MP and points to his encouragement of the use of closed-circuit television and "zero tolerance" policing which has cut crime in the area. Traditional Labour voters, he

It says something

about the manage-

ment of the Conser-

vative Party at the

present time that

people like me are forced

I hope this embarrasses

them. They should feel

ashamed - Former Tory

treasurer Lord McAlpine,

side Conservative Central

"He is dead and wooden ...

Maggie will find it incredi-

bly difficult to keep quiet

on this" - Lord McAlpine

into this position.

Michael Streeter later he was given a similar post. reports from a Tory enclave in Labour's

Blair's new Labour and he thinks their abstentions could help him win. With his wife, Carol, he gleefully recalls the reaction of Labour voters on the doorstep.

"One person said, Twe been waiting 18 years to get rid of you effing bs, now I find the other effing bs are just the same."

Much of the chat in the crowd-

ed terrace house that is the election headquarters is light-hearted and domestic - of their two dogs and the lambs on their six-acre smallholding. The proper-ty fits well with the southern part of the constituency where pretty towns such as Yarm show signs of considerable wealth. In contrast, some areas of the decaying industrial Stockton suffer male unemployment of up to 30 per

cent and massive depravation. So far his campaign against Labour's Dari Taylor has been relatively civil, though he informed The Independent that Ms Taylor had been "parachut-ed" in by her party, and had been given a new Labour "makeover". He declared: "She has a new

hairdo and wears suits." His own career is not without criticism. In 1994 he was removed as a ministerial aide, claiming that he left because of local defence cuts. Whips said he was sacked for "general inbelieves, are unhappy with Mr effectiveness", although a year

QUOTES

on John Major's 'wait and

"it was perfectly clear, that

when the unity of silence had been shattered ... that

the people would wake up and would no longer toler-

ate the lies that were being

- Sir James Goldsmith on

OF THE

DAY

see' policy

told to them"

Ms Taylor dismisses the per-sonal criticism of her as "silly" but recognises that she has a real fight ahead to take the seat. She

target territory

fident that enough will switch or stay at home to give her the 3.9 per cent swing she needs to win. "There is everything to play for and this is a critical seat. All eyes will be on us [at the election]." The daughter of the former Labour MP for Burnley, Daniel Jones, Welsh-born Ms Taylor -whose campaign is sponsored by the GMB general workers' union - detects a mood of anticipation in the seat. But she concedes that trust in all politi-

accepts that many of the unde-

cided voters - around 25 per cent of the electorate - will fall

back to the Tories, but she is con-

es is low. "People won't change, I know that. We are going to have to prove that they can trust us. Winning the election is going to be the easy part." Already she feels that she has Mr Devlin on the run over schools' funding and a contro-versial plan to build a watersports centre on a tranquil spot on the Tees, to which Mr Devlin

cians to carry out their promis-

appeared to give initial backing. The Liberal Democrats also believe they see signs of move-ment to them by both disen-chanted Tories and "betrayed" Labour supporters. However most observers believe their candidate, Peter Monck, who works for a funeral company, will do well to maintain their 1992 vote of less than 10,000.

opportunity.
The Daily Telegraph and the Daily Mail are trying to create an alternative election platform for the Conservative Party based on opposition to a

rehearsed and without the

benefit of notes. The five

minute film is likely to have cost

the party much less than the

£250,000 spent on its famous "Return to Brixton" film in

It is not known if the party

will re-schedule the film on

The Torics are estimated to

have spent £2m making five

election broadcasts during the

1992 general election. Labour.

which uses volunteer directors

as well as professionals at its ad-

vertising agency BMP DDB, is

likely to spend around £200,000

on its five films for this cam-

paign.

Making the new broadcast delayed the Prime Minister's trip to Stockton-on-Res to meet

Baroness Thatcher for a photo

unemployment.

European single currency.
Tuesday's Mail used John Major's visit to disgruntled fishermen in Newlyn as a hook to declare a "Battle for Britain" on its front page. Inside the news-paper published photographs and names of 76 Tory candidates opposed to a single currency. It also published a "Battle for Britain Hotline" number for candidates to fax through their

election addresses. The Mail's first and second editions yesterday, when ministers John Horam and James Paice were unearthed as opposing government policy, illuminated its attitude to the issue. The *Mail* believes it does the lories more good to be seen as anti-EU than beauty and the seen as anti-EU than harm to be seen as divided on the issue.

It scrapped its early front page story about trade unions

- "Labour's bully boys are back" - in favour of "Europe: The great revolt". Inside it printed another 66 photographs of Tory dissenters and a list of 140 candidates who now oppose

the single currency.

The Telegraph must have felt suitably miffed. It started writing to Tory candidates at the end of last week to ask for their election addresses. Only yesterday did it manage to print the po-sitions of 117 candidates whose election addresses it had re-ceived. Only 52 of the Iclegraph's candidates were explicitly opposed to the single currency, but even without the inducement of a photograph, more addresses were being received by the newspaper last

Conservative Euro-splits "We will see how they

handle but the new ones are lighter and easier, especially for female staff ... we are keeping our old polling booths even though one does have a bit of graffitl saying 'Vote

Chamberlain', Devon Electoral Officer Peter Smith on the new plastic ballot boxes.

"Do you know what the essence of this is? It is the genius of John Major who has kept these options open" - Michael Heseltine

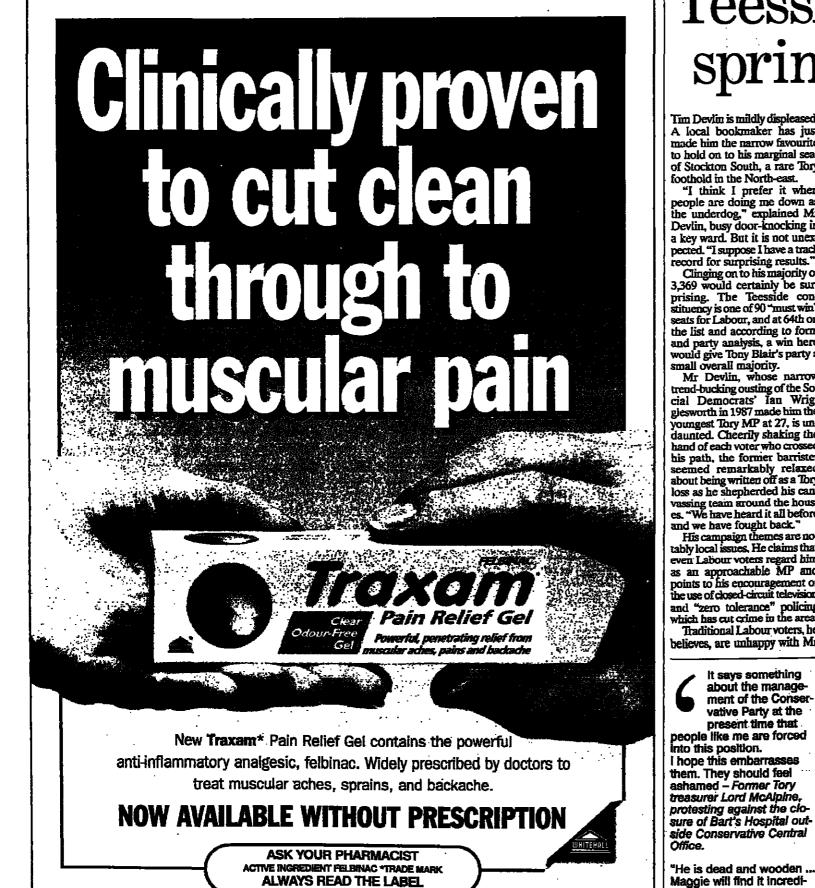
on the Conservative European currency debate

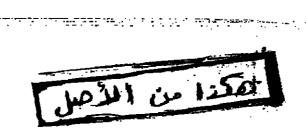
"It's no good trotting out the buildogs if you are going to be a French poodle" - Michael Forsyth

"It would be interesting to know what Lady Thatcher's election address would say if she were still publishing

- Labour Party campalgn spokesman Brian Wilson

Compiled by Ben Summers





Prime Minister could deal with the splits on Europe that are damaging the party.

A film made by the Tories advertising agency, M&C Saatchi, about the economy and falling unemployment, was due to be broadcast last night to coincide with yesterday's release of the latest unemployment figures. Instead Mr Major decided to record a personal message on camera to explain his "wait and see" policy on Britain's entry to a single European currency.

The film was made in less than an hour in the party's London headquarters by a film crew from M&C Saatchi. The message was a version of the impassioned statement Mr Major made to journalists earlier at the party's morning press conference.

Aides claimed the fired-up Prime Minister recorded the address in one take, un-

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Voters across the shires of England might not yet have regis-tered the fact, but on 1 May they will have two ballots to cast.

Parallel to the general election, some 3,300 seats in county and new unitary councils are being contested. So far the silence has been deafening. Party headquarters have been largely indifferent. Yet on the result hangs control of England's biggest education authorities and, depending on swing, who runs the newly formed Local Government Association.

The local hope is that voters will distinguish between the performance of councillors and MPs bearing the same party label. The leader of Bedfordshire Tories, Philip Hendry, reports doorstep conversations to the effect 'you will get my vote but your party certainly will not". The Liberal Democrat leader, Nick Hills, agrees. "The headline poll figures ignore regional and local voting

Elections take place on 1 May in 35 English

shire counties and 19 new 'unitary' councils. Some 3,200 seats are up for grabs, in addi-tion a third of the seats on the Kingston upon

Hull and Bristol city councils are being con-tested and all 42 seas on Malvern Hill district council. In some areas there are individual by

elections caused by death and resignations.

Polling hours have been extended to match those for the parliamentary elections (7am to 10pm): Local ballot papers will be a different colour but will be put into the same box as

parliamentary votes. In most areas counting will not begin until the morning of Filday 2.

May and results are unlikely to be declared before Friday afternoon.

The last county elections were in 1993 but since then Avon, Cleveland, Humberside and Berkshire have been abolished, Rutland and the Isle of Wight have become unitary coun-

cils and several have shrunk in size as a re-

sult of the creation of new unitary districts inside them. The new unitaries up and run-

ning include Poole, Portsmouth Bristol.

Brighton and Bournemonth. The fast taken the

of unitaries start operating on 1 April pest

intentions," he said.

were in 1993, when Labour facing his successor - if there is and the Liberal Democrats swept a majority of previously Tory councils into the "no overall control" category. Conventional wisdom says the Tory position should improve - but that depends on whether

national swings apply locally.
Councillors admit the public is often confused about who is actually in control of county hall. In Bedfordshire no single party has had a majority since the early Eighties. Arithmetic there is further complicated by the fact this is the first election since Luton was excised from the county. The car-making town is now a "unitary" - it runs its own education and social services

separate from the county. Stakes are high in neighbouring Oxfordshire where all three parties assented to a 1997-98 budget some £6m in excess of the Government's limit. In a fit of pre-election funk the Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer, postponed his decision on whether to veto it and insist new council tax demands tentions," he said. were issued for a lower figure. "Mr Doi The last county elections This is one of the first decisions patient."

Casting your vote in the county elections

Oxfordshire's Liberal Democrat leader Dermot Roaf is hoping for a rash of tactical voting, with people splitting their tickets in order to oust the county's Tory MPs.

Comparison with past voting is made more difficult in areas such as Blackburn where elections are taking place on new boundaries for a new kind of council. In Blackburn, till now a district of Lancashire, voters are being asked to choose the members of a new unitary, Blackburn with Darwen. Labour was solidly in charge

of the old Blackburn and its leader Malcolm Doberty says he is happy to fight on its record, including a 9 per cent increase in council tax this year. But Labour strength on Lancashire county may be affected by the loss of Blackburn and Blackpool, also a new unitary.

Would a new Labour Blackburn be demanding extra grants from a new Labour government? "We have no illusions "Mr Doherty said, "we will be

year and it is for their 'shadow' councils that

elections take place on 1 May.

During the year to come existing county councillors for such towns as Paterborough,

councillors for such towns as Peterborough, Warrington and Nottingham will continue in office, but will not be allowed to vote on county issues. On 1 April next year the existing Hereford and Worcester county splits into a unitary Herefordshire and a new two-tier county of Worcestershire.

County of Worcestershire.

County of Worcestershire. Cheshire Cumbridge County Councils (current status):

No Overall Control: Beds, Cembs, Cheshire, Cumbridge, Devon, East Sussex, Essex, Glouca, Hants, Hereford and Worcester, Heres, Kent, Laica, Lincs, Norfor, North Yorks, Oxon, Shropshire, Susfolk, Survey, Warlos, West Sussex, Wills.

Labour Council, Statis, Notts, Northumberland, Northumbs, Dance, Durtham and Derbyshire.

Notherta, Dancs, Durham and Derbyshire. Liberal Democrat Control: Comwall, Dorset and

Liberal Democrat Course.
Somerasi.
Conservative Control: Bucks.
New Linitairy Councils where elections are taking places Bracking Forest, Newbury, Reaching, Stough, Window & Markenbeed, Wokingham, Peterborough, Halton, Warmigton, Physicial, Torbay, Southerni on See, Thurrock Seretorialire, Gillingham/Rochestar, Blackburn & Demon, Blackbook, Nottingham, The



Trailblazer: The film director, Sir Richard Attenborough, driving to the hustings at Hebden Bridge. West Yorkshire, yesterday in an open top 1922 Morris tourer. He was in the constituency to give his backing to the Labour candidate, Chris McCafferty Photograph: Justin Skee Gurelian

AROUND THE REGIONS

Rutland whizz too fast for country lanes

It would take a political upheaval of cataclysmic proportions to see any other than a Conservative member returned

for Rutland and Melton. In 1992 Alan Duncan was returned with a 41 per cent majority over Labour and, realistically, the main event this time round remains the fight for second place, with the details of Mr Duncan's reduced majority as an interesting

sideshow. Both the UK Independence Party and the Referendum Party promise candidates, and the Liberal Democrats have a popular and well-known prospect in 29-year-old Kim Lee, who can be ex- but he is not a hit with many traditional pected to pull in a high personal vote. shire Tories and their wives. especially in his native Rutland where he is deputy leader of the newly created county council and regularly tops the acquired a step away from Parliament

Rutland Times icant factor in the final voting figures not least in Alan Duncan's. An oil trader and self-made millionaire, although he strongly denies claims that he is the 50th richest man in Britain, Mr Duncan, 40, is razor-sharp clever, and as ambitious as

The memory of a tabloid attack a couple of years ago over the residence he

one might expect from someone with such a glowing Thatcherite curriculum vitae.

He swaps his city Jaguar for a Range

Rover when he comes to the constituency

and diligently keeps up with dress codes.

despite the fact that his fortune was entirely respectably made, some still evehim askance. In fact, he is one of the per cent. more intellectual members of the Tors right. Being both rich and bright in interesting new ways is not quite the thing in Rutland and Melton, however. The Labour contender John Meads, whose has a white-collar trade union background, will have trouble keeping Kim Lee at bay. Redrawn constituency boundaries have lost Labour votes from a substantial chunk of suburban Leices-

true-blue farming country. Left-leaning professionals with a taste polls in local authority elections.

Personalities will certainly be a signifscheme still lingers in some minds. And atively few traditional working-class under the council-house right-to-buy for country living combine with what rel-

Labour voters there are - mostly in Melton - to give Mr Meads his voting base. Notionally, Labout's 1992 share of the vote under the new boundaries was Its per cent, against the Liberal Demoerats' 21 per cent and the Tories' 61

Apart from the Duncan factor, the other issue likely to sway votes is undoubtedly Europe.

Rutland businessman, Roger Heath, who has had his ups and downs under the Conservatives, voices a typical doorstep attitude when he says: "Duncan's going to win, isn't he?

"I might put in a protest vote by going for the Referendum Party. It's down ter, now replaced by a further stretch of to what I feel like on the day. But probably I won't."

The Rutland Times

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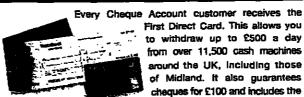
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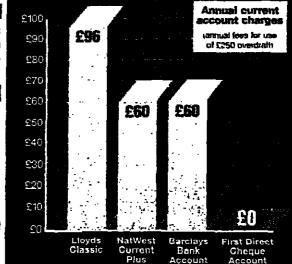
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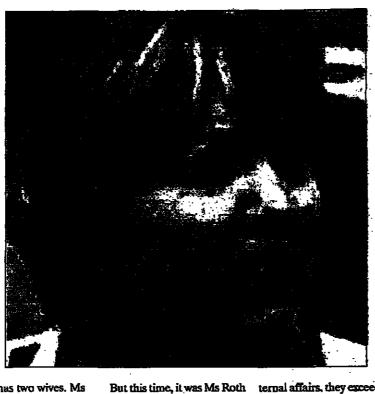
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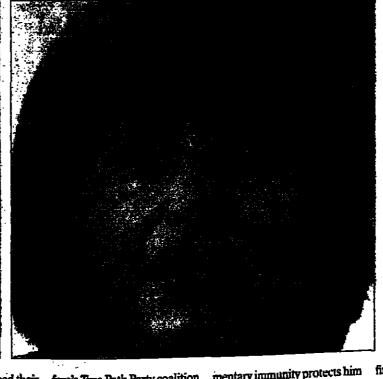


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The German MEP, her Turkish rival and the polygamist





Double standards: Claudia Roth, left, who heads the Greens in the European Parliament took on Turkish foreign minister Tansu Cilier, right, this week in a clash on the topic of polygamy and the bigamy of a minister in the Turkish government Photographs: AP

Christopher de Bellaigue Ankara

Chudia Roth is not afraid to ask tough questions. She posed a particularly tricky one to Tansu Ciller, Turkey's foreign minister, this week, How, Ms Roth Ciller style herself the champi- member of Turkey's ruling Wel-

on of Turkish women, and continue to sit in cabinet alongside Ciller and Ms Roth had met at a minister who was a bigamist? Ms Roth, who heads the Greens inside the European Parliament, had done her homework. She was pre-armed with the knowledge that wanted to know, could Ms. Mehmet Altinsoy-a prominent

a get-together of European parliamentarians in Ankara. Such meetings have often been the source of acrimony over the last few months, as Turkey takes Europe to task for failing to make good on its promises to

who was making the accusations of double standards - a charge which Turks often level at the European Union itself - and it did not go down well.

"We have respect for our friends," was the foreign minister's testy response, "but once they begin interfering in our in-

This is not the first time that the redoubtable Ms Roth has dithe redoubtable Ms Roth has di-rected penetrating questions target. By marrying twice – the at Turkish politicians; her first time with the sanction of celebrity in Turkey was first assured when an uncouth minister called her a whore. Dealings with Ms Ciller, who leads Wel-

ternal affairs, they exceed their fare's True Path Party coalition

the state, the second with that of an imam, or Muslim priest -Mr Altinsoy was breaking Turkish law, although his parlia-

mentary immunity protects him from prosecution. Polygamy was banned by Kemal Ataturk. modern Turkey's founding father, along with other Islamic practices considered too regressive for a modern republic. But if you ask Turks how many polygamists there are inside Turkey's increasingly Islamichued parliament, you might

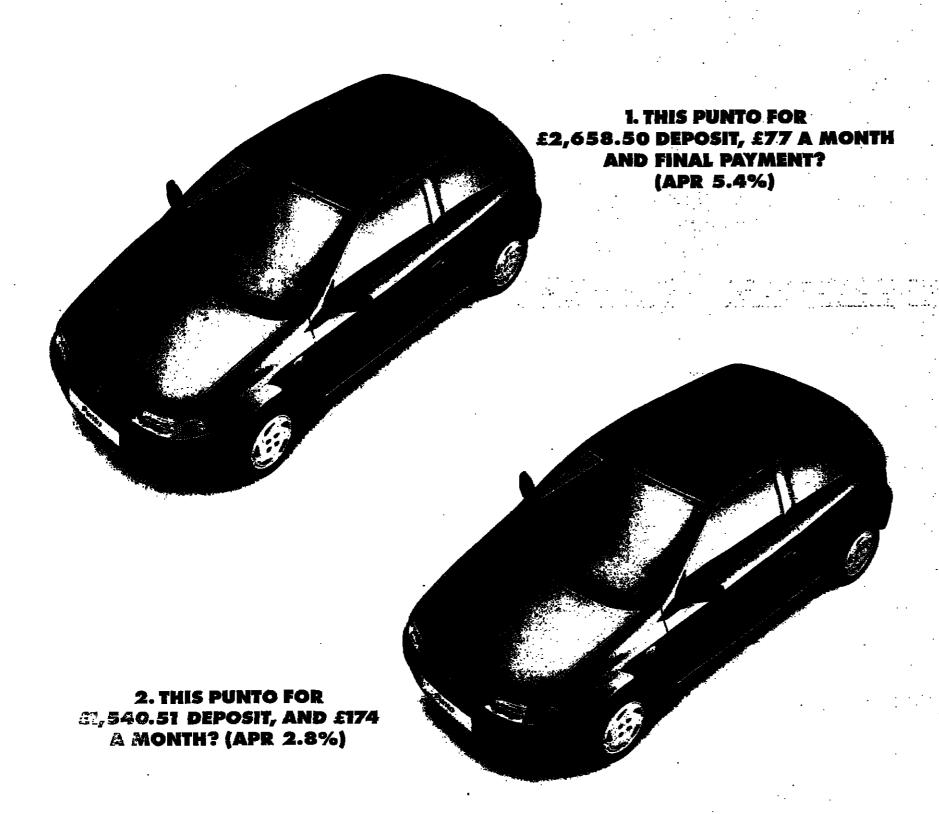
get a cryptic look.
For understandable reasons. the Turkish press has preferred not to "out" political polyga-mists, for which – like the rest of Tinkey - no official figures exist. The practice is more common in the depressed southeast. which was largely left to its own devices while the rest of Turkey embarked on ambitious development. Children from additional marriages – Islam

first wife. It is here, rather than at one errant parliamentarian, that many modern-minded Turks think Ms Roth should direct her attentions.

Yesterday, sections of the media friendly to Ms Ciller rallied satisfactorily to haul Ms Roth over the coals, failing to note that other comments made by the Green leader had echoed sentiments expressed by the Turkish foreign minister herself. "Turkey is a part of Europe," said Ms Roth, "and there are allies who support her there." Nationalist Turks would hap

pily live without Ms Roth's words of support. As for the clusive Mr Altinsoy, a Welfare Party colleague suggested yes-terday that the minister's bigamy should be treated with the discretion extended to exsanctions four - are usually registered as offspring of the late Francois Mitterrand.

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France faces cuts to stay on target for Emu

The French government may have to impose emergency spending cuts this year to meet the Maastricht guidelines

spending cuts this year to meet the Maastricht guidelines for membership of the European single currency.

Despite the first signs of a recovery in the French economy, mid-year spending cuts may have to be imposed to keep the budget deficit close to the target of 3 per cent of gross national product set by the Maastricht treaty.

The social security budget – covering health and unemployment – also appears to be overshooting its projected deficit for 1997. The budget short-falls, revealed by Le Monde yesterday, are blamed partly on lower than anticipated VAT receipts.

John Lichfield – Paris

Taiwan deal angers Peking

China blasted the United States for its sales of F-16 fighters to Taiwan, saying the move had scriously harmed Sino-US relations.

"The Chinese government has already voiced its strong position to the US side." Foreign Shen Guofang said in a statement. Reuters - Peking

Fela Kuti on cannabis charge

Nigeria's anti-narcotics agency charged musician Fela Anikulapo-Kuti with several drug offences and the star could face a minimum of 15 years in jail if convicted. Kuti was arrested last week with 107 others at his nightclub. The Shrine, in Lagos for alleged possession of cannabis.

Mali election clashes

Opposition activists and security forces clashed in Mali's capital Bamako yesterday when two opposition alliances tried to stage election protests in defiance of a

government han. Witnesses said police used tear gas to disperse protesters in the city centre, where groups of opposition militants burned tyres and called for the government to resign and for elections to be suspended and reorganised after chaotic weekend polling.

Reuters - Bamake Reuters - Bamako

Arson attack kills 12

Three masked gunmen burst into a bar yesterday in the northern Portuguese town of Amarante, splashed gasoline around and set it ablaze. Twelve people were killed and 14 injured, including one wounded by guntire. Most of the bodies were found by a locked fire door.

AP - Lisb

Sodomy laws scrapped

Legislators in the Australian state of Tasmania approved the scrapping of the island's harsh laws against sodomy. Tasmania's tiny upper House of the state parliament narrowly voted for a bill to repeal the existing laws, unique in Australia for making anal sex a crime punishable by up to 21 years' jail. Reuters - Hobart

Mandela hosts Zaire talks



The Zairean rebel leader. Laurent Kabila (pictured). met South African President Nelson Mandela to launch a round of talks aimed at ending fighting in Zaire, Mr Kabila posed for photoghaphers with Mr Mandela in Cape Town before the two went into a private meeting. They refused to answer questions from journalists. Reuters - Cape

US allows drugs in worship

American Indian soldiers will be allowed to take the hallucinogenic plant peyote as part of their religious ceremonies under new guidelines adopted by the military. The announcement on Thesday ends years of distress for Marine Staff Sgt Shawn Arnold, who said he had been

told not to practise his faith.

Sgt Arnold, from the Navajo reservation in Shiprock.

New Mexico, said he had twice been threatened with court martial because of his religion. Pevote, or mescal, is a cactus with psychedelic properties that grows in southern Texas. Federal law permits its use by the 250,100 Native American Church members. AP - Albuquerque

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No lasting rest for lost victim of Korean war

Seoul — It should have been a his-loric and emotional occasion. On St George's Day next week, British veterans from the Korean War were to have gathered at the Commonwealth war cemetery in Pusan to lay to rest one of their fallen comrades.

For nearly half a century he had lain unknown and unburied in for-eign soil. Then a remarkable and unexpected thing happened. In 1995, 42 years after the war ended, he became the first British serviceman to be handed over by the Stalinist government of North Korea, perhaps the known numbers of dead servicemen

most reclusive regime in the world.

British officials spent months in tricky negotiations with the North Korean People's Army across the demilitarised zone which still divides the peninsula. But yesterday, with the invitations about to be sent out from the British embassy in Seoul, the funeral was cancelled, not because of North Korean obstruction, but because the American Department of Defense is refusing to hand over his remains.

Officials in London insist there are no hard feelings. But British diplomats in Seoul privately are annoyed about the last-minute collapse of what should have been a proud, symbolic and resonant moment,

This morning, 100 veterans and their families will arrive in Seoul, accompanied by the Duke of Gloucester, for a week of commemorations for the 1,100 British servicemen who died during the three-year Korean conflict. On Sunday, the dead man's widow and his son, born after his death, were to have flown out to join the party. But next Wednesday, as the veterans travel from Seoul to Pusan, the British remains will stay locked in storage in a Pentagon laboratory in Hawaii. Despite the presence of identifying "dog tags". US scientists insist they do not know who the dead man is

and will not release the body.

Richard Lloyd Parry on the row delaying the burial of a British soldier

makes strenuous efforts to identify them. Until the Falklands War in 1982, British policy was to let the dead "lie where they fall".

After the Korean War ended, anwere left in North Korean territory. In 1990 the North began returning American remains, which were duly sent to the Pentagon's Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii (CIL-HAI). When North Korea handed over the first British body in Octo-ber 1995, it was also sent to CILHAL

with accompanying dog tags.

Recently the answer came back: the body could not be identified with confidence and would not be released for next week's funeral. "It's been British practice to take

dog tags as empirical evidence," says a British officer involved with the case. "At Ypres, when they were pulling corpses out of the mud, that was often the best you could do."

For the scientists in CILHAI this is not enough. They need absolute proof of identity, which means DNA



Baring the brunt: Soldiers of the Black Watch regiment marching to the wash house during their tour of duty in the Korean War

samples. "They were literally asking us for locks of hair, even envelopes that he might have licked, which

might still carry his DNA," says a British diplomat. But the scientists failed to make a match, just as they have failed to make a match in almost every case they have dealt with. Of the 210 sets of US remains sent to the lab from North Korea since 1990, only six have

The Americans say dog tags prove nothing. "The tags tell you that in all probability the person who once car-

صكدا من الأصل

"But just because you have a set of remains and a set of dog tags doesn't prove that they once belonged to the same person." For North Koreans, whose economy has now collapsed, there is an

1990 they have been paid \$1m for "expenses" incurred in locating the remains, In the past, a single set of ried them is dead," says Jim Coles
III, spokesman for US Forces Korea.

American remains has been discovered by CILHAI to contain bones from as many as three different bodies. "The North Korean recovery technique are inadequate," says Mr

Coles. They might find a hip here and a leg bone here and think that's good enough to make a person. That's unacceptable to us."

British diplomats in New York was assumed on all sides that the rewere approached by the North Korean mission to the UN in July 1995 with news of the remains. The North wanted a hand-over to be conducted bilaterally between London and Pyongyang. As a member of the UN command, which technically monitors the Korean armistice. Britain insisted that the body be handed over

draped in the UN flag. From the beginning, however, it mains were British. The British Defence attache in Seoul, Brigadier Colin Parr, negotiated the hand-over with the North Koreans, although he did so in his capacity as a UN representative. When the casket was

handed over on 31 October 1995, it was Brigadier Parr who inspected it. Britain's strict adherence to the terms of the Armistice appears to have cost it dearly. Having surrendered the remains to the Pentagon.

it is proving difficult to get them back. "In hindsight," says one diplomat, "it might have been better if we had never handed them over".

Sam Mercer, of the British Korean Veterans' Association fought with the Gloucestershire Regiment at the Imjin River. "The saddest thing for us was we lost 58 killed in that battle and we were not physically able to bury them," he said.

Because the bodies were left be-. It will be be a great load o

The early signs, at least, were good. Talks between North and South Koa hotel across the street from the to listen to what the North Korean del-United Nations, were scheduled for rea, divided since the Korean war, one day but could continue tomorrow, US officials said. began yesterday with cautious indi-North Korea's vice-foreign min-

cations from both sides that there might be progress in healing the division of the Korean peninsula. Under a US-South Korean pro-

posal, China and the United States At the heart of the disagreement would be the intermediaries in fourare deep differences between the way way negotiations on a security plan Britain and the United States regard to replace the 1953 armistice that

ister, Kim Gye Gwan, recalled a Korean proverb that "the beginning means the work is half done." He added: "I think we will come out with some results."

A South Korean diplomat, Sah Ji-Won was optimistic, saying "the fact

egates have to say." Asked what he expected from the talks, the South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister and delegation chief, Song Young Shik, crossed his fingers for luck.

Talks bring a glimmer of hope to divided nation

Last month, US and South Korean representatives briefed the North Koreans in New York about the offer. North Korea asked for another round of discussions, saying it needed more time to study it. Privately,

negotiations to end formally the state the decision was not linked to a of war which has existed since the North Korean acceptance of the armistice was signed. Nicholas Burns, a US State De-

ertment spokesman, said the United States was auxious for the talks "to determine ways to promote stability-security stability-on the Ko-rean peninsula. On the eve of corn to North Korea to assist chil-

peace talks offer. But the North Koreans had indicated that they believe American help in overcoming the country's critical food shortage is a sign of good faith.

SEOUL (Renter) -- South Korea hind enemy lines, many were listed is preparing for the arrival of a de- as "Missing in Action", which made yesterday's talks, the US announced it will ship \$15m (£9.25m) worth of curity officials in Seoul said Hwang to terms with. Mr Ellison said: "We Jang-rop, now sheltering in the will be delighted if everything goes all the bodies it can locate and rean War. The talks, which began in give a response is good. We came here the North would accept the offer for severe food shortages. Mr Burns said a Relating, would arrive in Seoul soon. family's mind"

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Tung feels US chill and calls off visit

Hong Kong

Tung Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive of Hong Kong's first post-colonial government, announced yesterday that he would postpone a planned visit to the US next month as his leading opponent, Martin Lee, the leader of the Democratic Party, prepares for a meeting tomorrow with President Bill Clinton and Vice-President Al

It is understood that Mr Tung was concerned that he would not be received at the same level or with the same degree of warmth which has greeted Mr Lee during his lengthy visit to the United States.

Mr Lee arrived in the United States without any confirmed meetings at senior levels of the US administration. However he has already held a successful 45 minute meeting with

considerable coup by arranging meeting with the President These meetings were the result of intensive lobbying by Mr Lee's impressive number of allies in Congress.

Branded as a "subversive" by the Chinese government, Mr Lee is the colony's most prominent democrat and leader of the party which has consistently scored the highest number of votes in Hong Kong's limited election system.

Mr Tung is well connected in United States business and for-eign policy circles, but his aides were concerned that his connections would not be sufficient to make the sort of impact Mr

They were also worried that Mr Tung would be forced to spend most of his time on the defensive, answering human rights concerns and explaining why he plans to curb civil lib-

retary of State, and secured a erties in the territory. A considerable coup by arranging spokesman for Mr Tung insisted that he would try to visit the US in the second half of the year, explaining that he could not do so before then, "mainly because of the tremendous workload generated by the many pressing issues that remained to be resolved".

The background to the jockeying for attention in the Unitanti-Peking sentiment in Congress and spreading unease about China's intentions towards Hong Kong. Mrs Alinvitation to attend the 30 June celebrations to mark the handover to Chinese rule, saying derline the United States commitment to preserving Hong Kong's current way of life and

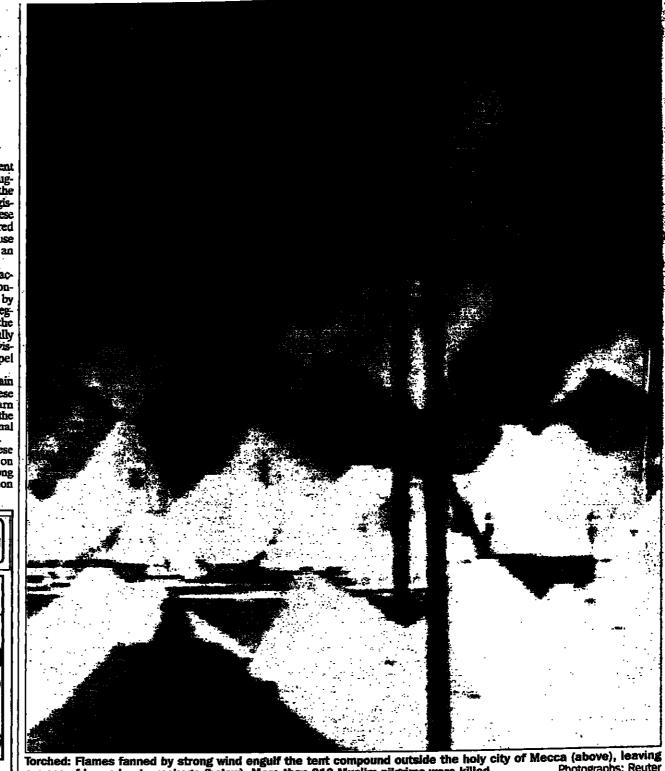
Senator Jesse Helms, the powerful chairman of the Senate's Foreign Relations Com-

of hostility to China by suggesting that members of the Hong Kong Provisional Legislature, appointed by the Chinese government, should be barred from entering the US because they are serving on an illegitimate body.

Mr Tung has indirectly accused Mr Lee of being responsible for American hostility by accusing him of spreading a negative view of Hong Kong in the United States. He originally said that the purpose of his visit would be to "dispel pessimistic views".

London (Reuters) - Britain summoned a senior Chinese diplomat in London to warn him of "deep concerns" over the role of Peking's Provisional Legislature for Hong Kong.

Reports that this Chinese body was considering laws on public holidays in Hong Kong provoked Britain to sun



Torched: Flames fanned by strong wind engulf the tent compound outside the holy city of Mecca (above), leaving a mass of burned-out wreckage (below). More than 210 Muslim pilgrims were killed Photographs: Reuter

Saudis clear debris of Mecca's hellish pilgrimage inferno

Patrick Cockburn

Mecca were yesterday trying to identify the bodies of 217 Muslim pilgrims burned to death in city as they attended the Hajj pilgrimage. A further 1,290 people are

known to suffered injuries as the flames, fanned by the wind, spread rapidly through the 70,000 tents pitched on the plain of Mina outside the holy

Diplomats said the number of casualties, mostly from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, might rise. 'All our efforts to get an idea of the number of the dead are in vain," said one foreign envoy. "Hospital staff are not authorised to speak and the Saudi authorities are not sharing new information with the bassies or the press."

Mohammed Hamad Ansari, the Indian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, said the number of indian victims might eventually total 100. "The bodies were charred in the fire and we cannot identify them except from a missing persons list," he said. About 12 Pakistanis have been identified out of 30 who are thought to have died.

In the remains of the Mina encampment, trucks were beginning yesterday to cart away burned wreckage of everything from charred water bottles to

refrigerators, air conditioners and buses, which caught fire as strong winds spread the flames. by many of the 2 million Hajj

To take part in the Haji is one of the five pillars of Islam. It reached its high point yesterday as pilgrims, clothed in white, walked to Mount Arafat, where the Prophet Mohammed is reputed to have preached his last sermon. The pilgrims chanted: "I have answered your call, God, there is no God but you." Behind them, new tents are

being erected to replaced those destroyed in the blaze. The Eid al-Adha feast at the end of the Hajj is celebrated by

pede in a tunnel between Mina The cause of the blaze is being and Mecca led to 1.400 people attributed to an exploding gas being crushed to death. In 1987 cylinder, often used for cooking 400 people were killed in clashanother 270 people were crushed to death in a stampede. Saudi Arabia says it has spent \$18.6bn (£10bn) in the last 10 years on improving facilities for those attending the Hajj.

The Saudi authorities say the problems stem from the failure of Muslim countries to keep to a quota system agreed in 1988 by the Organisation of the Islamic Countries. Under this a country is allowed one pilgrim performing the Hajj for every 1,000 Muslims in its population. But in the past year, almost half the 2 million pilgrims were from Saudi Arabia itself.



Attorney scandal touches heart of Israeli coalition

Patrick Cockburn

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, is waiting to see the casualty rate among his closest political colleagues after laraeli police recommended pressing criminal charges against three leading figures in the scandal over the appointment of the Attorney-General.

The recommendations come in a police report completed after a three-month investigation into the political influence used to get Roni Bar-On, a lawyer, made Attomey-General in January. At the centre of the scandal is the allegation that Aryen Deri, leader of one of the parties in the government coalition and who is on trial for corruption, obtained the appointment of Mr Bar-On in

Saturday 8.00-5.00. Selected branches open until 8.00

on Thursday and 10.00-4.00 on Sunday.

Check each branch for details.

Despite the police recom-mendation to indict three of those involved, the State Attorney and Attorney-General are unlikely to prosecute Tzahi Haneghi, the Justice Minister, or Avigdor Lieberman, director general of the Prime Minister's office, according to press reports. But even if he is not indicted it may prove impossible for Mr Hanegbi, accused of helping to cook up the deal whereby Mr

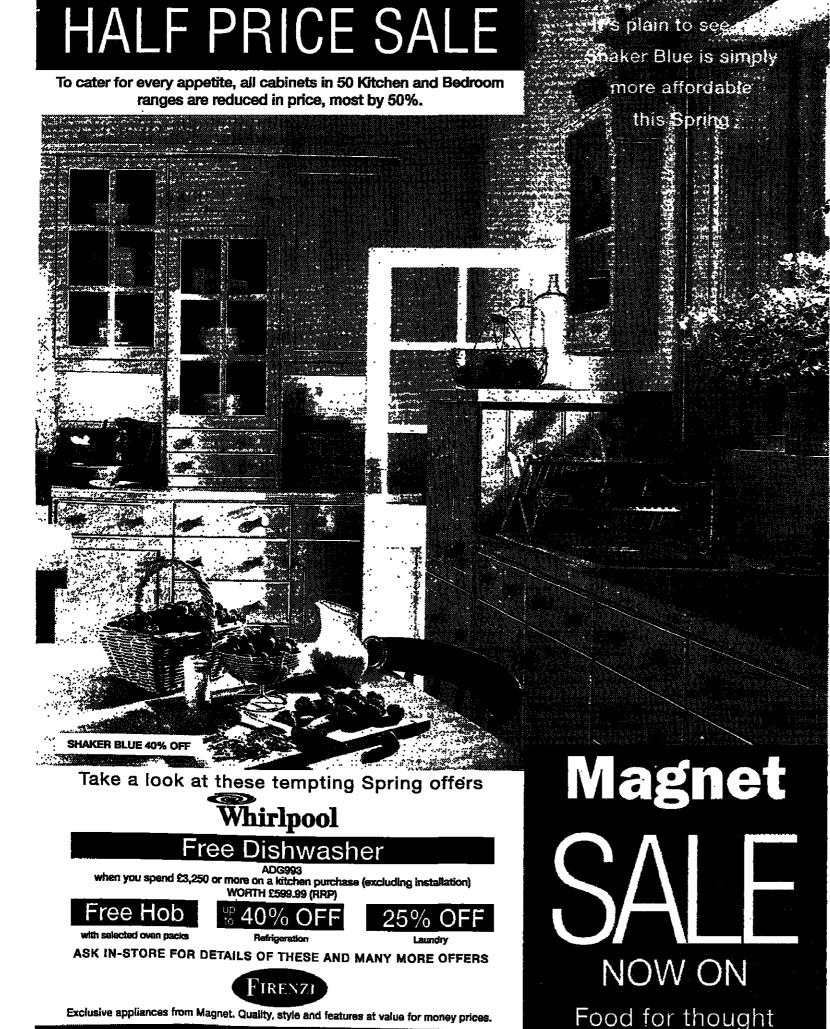
Bar-On was appointed (he resigned after 48 hours), to remain as Justice Minister. If Mr Deri, leader of the religious Shas party, is indicted, his party is threatening to bring down the government coalition. The police say that during their investigations they were subjected to political pressure. which they withstood.

order to ease his legal troubles. the report but the police did not

move to charge him formally. Whatever the mechanism by which Mr Bar-On was chosen, there is no doubt that the lorce behind his appointment was Mr Deri's desire to see a malleable party loyalist in the Attorney-General's office willing

to support a plea bargain. Meanwhile, Israel yesterday closed the West Bank, pre-venting all Palestinian workers from entering Israel or Jewish settlements. The Defence Ministry said it had received warmngs of attacks on Israelis.

There were some signs of the diplomatic stalemate ending as Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, met David Levy, the Foreign Minister, in Malta, Both sides said progress had been made and the origins of present disputes discussed. Security com Mr Netanyahu is criticised in mittees of Palestinians and Is raclis are to resume meeting.



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in danger: Works like this one, by Russian artist Vasily Polenov, have been the target of art thieves

been soured by howls of protest in Moscow over the Russian President's unorthodox cultural exchange. Mr Yeltsin wants to return all the spoils plundered by the Red Army at the end of the Second World War, as

Photograph: AKG Londonso eloquently put it: "The Germans are

Duma, the lower house of parliament, to keep the controversial artefacts on Russian soil.

His blocking move was rejected by a second Duma vote earlier this month, but yesterday the Federation

agreed by the two countries seven years

ago. He has vetoed a decision by the

sures, Boris Yeltsin flew to Germany

yesterday for a bout of high-profile boultomic and backroom bartering

with his "friend", Chancellor Helmut

The art works, to be presented to-day as "gifts" to their rightful owners, the German people, are expected to be the sweetener in lough negotiations over Nato's encroachment into former

Soviet dominions. But the gesture has

Council, the upper house, put off consideration of the issue for a month.

Opposition politicians in Moscow argue that the war booty should stay in Russia because it was Russia, after all, which had won the war. Or, as the ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky

Germany, taken out all industry and Clutching a selection of looted art trea-As one might infer from those words, Mr Zhinnowsky is not in favour of restoring a single Goya or Dürer to shot Germans."

Yeltsin treasures

spoils of diplomacy

of restoring a single Goya or Durer to its pre-war ownership.

Not all Russians would go quite that far, but even mainstream politicians believe that Germany must continue to pay in some way for the destruction wrought during the war.

In an open letter to Chancellar Kohl, the Duma's leading art adviser, Yevgeny Ussenko, chains that German torous caused damage amounting to

troops caused damage amounting to \$1.3bn (£810m) in today's money to Russian culture. "Compared to these losses, the German works of art taken to Russia were insignificant com-pensation," Professor Ussenko wrote.

The works, hidden by the Nazis in the vanks of country manors and casties, were tracked down at the end of the war by special detachments of the

NKVD, the KGB's predecessor.

They include sculpture, ceramics, and archeological treasures as well as paintings. Some were returned to East Germany in the Communist era, but most of the loot remained locked in Russian cellars until the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Two years ago Moscow's Pushkin museum displayed for the first time 63 paintings by European masters in an

fascists, 20th-century barbarians ... We exhibition entitled "Twice Rescued"-should have occupied the whole of a tongue in cheek reference to their "rediscovery" under Russian cura-tors' feet. All the works had come from the "war collection".

The row about the war booty, which both countries thought they had settled in their Friendship Treaty in 1990, remains the biggest obstacle to an amicable relationship. Art history is expected to take up much valuable time at today's discussions between the two leaders - time they would rather spend haggling about Russia's place in European security.

As an avid fan of Nato's castward expussion as well as the self-appoint.

expansion as well as the self-appointed champion of Russian interests in the West, Chancellor Kohl is as close as one can find to an honest broker. Mr Yeltsin knows he cannot stop Nato creeping ever closer to his borders, but he is relying on the German leader to press for an accommodation which will not undermine Russia's se-

curity and pride.
Today's meeting is likely to offer the last opportunity to reach an agreement on guarantees to Russia in exchange for Moscow's nod towards Nato's plans. Russia hopes to sign a document elevating it to a Nato "partner" at the end of next month, and in July the Atlantic alliance is expected to invite Poland, Hungary and the Ceech Republic to submit their membership ap-

While thieves strip a nation of its heritage

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Russia is losing its heritage by the crateload as criminal groups prayer book that belonged to smuggle more and more art to Alexei Romanov, father of Pethe West, aided by chaotic policing and inadequate security at many of the country's museums, libraries and churches.

Millions of dollars worth of Trotsky. icons and other treasures have ended up in the hands of smugglers seeking to sell them abroad through a network of shops run by émigrés in Britain, the United States, Italy, and Is-

According to one of Russia's top crime-fighters, General Vasily Fedoschenko, of the Interior Ministry's criminal investigation division, art theft and smuggling is getting steadily worse. He said yesterday that more than 3,000 related offences were registered by police last year – a figure that is likely to represent only a fraction of the true number.

Law enforcement agencies appear to be fighting a losing battle, which is complicated by Russia's vast borders, and endemic official corruption. But there have been several successes. The general said that not long ago Russian detectives, working in tandem with Scotland Yard, removed four paintings from Sotheby's and Christies in London after concluding that they had been stolen from a museum in Sochi on the Black Sea. They were by renowned mineteenth century Russian artists Ivan Aivazovsky Vasily Polenov, and Vasily

another coup last October in St ic that could not leave the Russian customs notched up Petersburg when they arrested a 56-year-old Russian man just refore he boarded a flight to

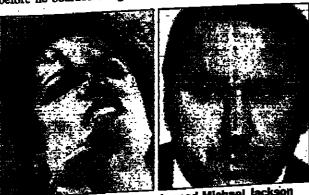
loaded with art treasures worth tens of millions of dollars. These included a 330-year-old ter the Great, a letter written by both the Tsar himself, another written by Catherine the Great, and contemporary portraits of

worse now than ever before, is not new. From the 1970s, the who toured the provinces steal go to exotic lengths: five years ago, police arrested a gang operating in the "Golden Ring" of cities around Moscow who had seized a large number of icous after drugging a church warden.

sures is deepening sentiments in post Cold War Russia that it is being phindered and exploited by the West, even though the smuggling business is run by

home-grown gangs.
The authorities have imposed tight rules over the legal export of art. Buyers have to apply to a government committee for a licence for every artefact they want to take out of the pro-war art and almost all icons.

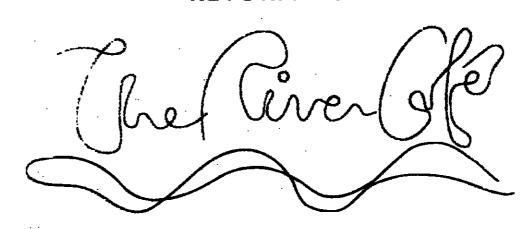
wittingly fallen foul of the system was the entertainer. Michael Jackson. When he per-President Yeltsin's former chie bodyguard. Customs officials concluded it was an historic relcountry. They sent it straight



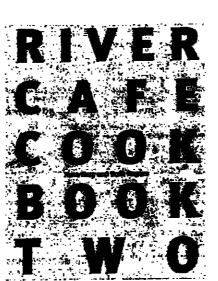
Return to sender: Customs stopped Michael Jackson taking away a "relic" gift from Alexander Korzhakov



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Professor Glanville Williams

Glanville Williams was a legal scholar in a class on his own. His writings were prodigious in their quantity, quality and range. He was a dedicated and inspiring teacher. And he was also a hugely effective law re-former – a kind of legal Asterix, whose boundless energy and unquenchable optimism led him into endless battles against unjust laws, many of which he won despite the overwhelming odds against him.

Nowadays Williams is best known as a writer on criminal law, where his fame rests on four books, the influence of which has been enormous. First among these stands his Criminal Law: the General Part (1953), a 900-page text concerned, as he explained in the preface, "to search out the general rules of the criminal law, i.e. those applying to more than one crime". The Proof of Guilt (1955) is a comparative account of the rules by which criminal cases are tried in England and Wales, penetrating in its analysis of the merits of our system as well as its defects.

The Sanctity of Life and the Criminal Law (1958) examines the philosophical basis for laws against contraception, sterilisation, artificial insemination, abortion, suicide and euthanasia; when it appeared it was very controversial. The fourth book is his 1,000-page Textbook of Criminal Law (1978). This was a successful student textbook, and would be one still if he had ever managed to finish the third edition, on which he had been labouring for 14 years at the time of his death. In fact, his range as a writer

went far beyond the criminal law. Before turning to the criminal law. Williams had already vritten what are still the definitive books on a range of other important legal subjects: Liability for Animais (1939), The Law Reform (Frustrated Con-tracts) Acts (1943) (1945), Crown Proceedings (1948), Joint Obligations (1949), and Joint Tons and Contributory Negligence (1950). In 1947 he had edited Salmond's Jurisprudence.

He covered an even wider range of topics in the huge number of articles which, astonishingly, he also found the time to write. It is difficult, indeed, to think of any important legal subject on which at some time he did not have something original and interesting to say. Nor is this all. For taking notes. he invented and patented a new form of shorthand (Speedhand Shorthand, 1952). And with Learning the Law (1945) now in its 11th edition, he wrote a little introductory book about law studies which was, and still remains, indispensable reading for any would-be law student.

Williams's voluminous and sometimes complicated writings are inspired by two big and simple notions. The first is that the law should be clear, consistent and accessible. The second is that law should be humane. He was a convinced utilitarian, who held that punishment was an evil to be avoided unless there was a good reason for imposing it, and for whom "good reasons" meant the well-being of society, not the tenets of religious belief. Hence Leon Radzinowicz's celebrated bon mot about him: "Glanville Williams is the illegitimate child

of Jeremy Bentham". These utilitarian beliefs also underlay Williams's efforts as a law reformer, an activity in which he managed to play two roles at once. The first was the "establishment man". He devoted many hours over several decades to serving on a range of official committees, in par-



ticular the Criminal Law Revision Committee, of which he was a member from 1959 to 1980. In this capacity he shares the credit for a number of reports which led, among other things, to the decriminalisation of suicide in 1961 and the radical reform and codification of the law of theft in 1968. His second role was that of

*radical outsider". Working sometimes with others, sometimes on his own, he was adent at stirring up public opinion over matters where official interest in reform was lacking. He took a major part in the campaign to liberalise the law on abortion, which largely succeeded with the Abortion Act of 1967. He was also very active in the campaign to legalise voluntary euthanasia, which has so far largely failed. He was both president of the Abortion Law Reform Association, and a vicepresident of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society.

In the 1950s he was among the first to draw public attention to the problems children face when giving evidence in sex cases - and was still campaigning on the subject in the 1980s. In 1960 he was the first person

publicly to advocate the taperecording of interviews with suspects in police stations; initially condemned as a silly and impractical idea, 25 years later this became almost universal practice. Perhaps his greatest triumph was in 1986, when a welltimed article persuaded the House of Lords to rule that a person can be guilty of attempt even where the crime in question was impossible of complethe other way the year before, and expressly overruling, for the first time ever, their previous decision in a criminal case. Glanville Williams was a re-

spected and innovative teacher. He was also very supportive throughout their careers to a number of his junior colleagues. Although a kind man, however, he was rather shy, and not a great socialiser outside the circle of his family. He was brought up in a pious Congre-gationalist family in South Wales, and much of his background stayed with him. Notwithstanding his great emnence, he remained to the end of his days a quiet-spoken, modest, gentle, serious-minded Welshman. Although an ag-nostic for most of his life he knew his Bible, and the use of biblical phrases was instinctive to him. "He smote him hip and thigh", he once said, describing an article an American had written criticising Sigmund Freud. Academic honours were

heaped upon him, culminating in 1995 in a Doctorate of Letters honoris causa from his own university, Cambridge. During his lifetime it was widely rumoured that he had never been offered a knighthood because he had been staunchly pacifist before the Second World War. and during it a conscientious objector. The truth, however, is that he was offered one and declined it; partly from modesty, and partly because he thought it incongruous that a man who had refused to wield a bayonet should theoretically bear a

Glanville Llewelyn Williams, lawyer: born Bridgend, Glamor-gan 15 February 1911; Called to the Bar, Middle Temple 1935; Research Fellow, St John's College, Cambridge 1936-42; Reader in English Law, then Professor of Public Law and Quain Professor of Jurisprudence, London University 1945-55; Fellow, Jesus College, Cambridge 1955-97; Reader in Law, Cambridge University 1957-65, Professor of English Law 1966-68, Rouse Ball

Professor of English Law 1968-

78; QC 1968; married 1939 Lor-

na Lawfield (one son); died 10

J.R. Spencer



Anthony Bushell

With his upright bearing, cultured diction and delicate good looks - he once understudied Ivor Novello - the actor (later producer and director) Anthony Bushell started his career as sensitive, if callow, leading man before graduating to char-acter roles in which be excelled as (not always honourable) members of the British military. He had a brief career on the London and Broadway stages and as a leading man in Hollywood before carving a niche for himself in the British cinema. Later he became Sir Laurence Olivier's general manager and both produced and directed movies and television shows.

Born in Westerham, Kent in 1904, he was educated at Magdaien College School, then at Hertford College, Oxford, where he befriended Evelyn Waugh, a fellow member of the Hypocrites Club, a raffish group described by Waugh in his diaries as "notorious not only for drunkenness but for flamboyance of dress and manner which was in some cases patently ho-mosexual". Waugh describes their heavy drinking and wild parties, including an "orgy" where he "unearthed a strap and whipped Tony". Despite the roistering, Bushell was the college's middle-weight boxing champion during his first year, and later became stroke of

their rowing crew. After Oxford, Bushell studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, and made his theatrical début at the Adelphi Theatre in 1924 in Diplomacy, starring Gladys Cooper and Sir Gerald Du Maurier. In 1927 he made his début on the Broadway stage opposite Jeanne Eagels in Her Cardboard Lover, and the following year he married the musical comedy star Zelma O'Neal. In his next

Broadway play, Somerset Maugham's The Sacred Flame, he was seen by the actor George Arliss who insisted that he be cast as the romantic juvenile in Disraeli (1929), Arliss's first talking picture.

Bushell followed this with the

role of the cowardly Second Lieutenant Hibbert (the first of many military roles he would play) in James Whale's screen version of R.C. Sherriff's sardonic anti-war play Journey's End (1930). He made a dozen more films in Hollywood, including Three Faces East (1930), starring Erich Von Stroheim as a German spy operating as a butler in Bushell's household, Five Star Final (1931) in which Bushell was one of those victimised by a ruthless tabloid exposé, Allan Dwan's Chances (1931), as an army officer who loves the same girl as his brother (Douglas Fairbanks Jr), Van-in Fair (1932) with Myrna Loy as Becky Sharp, and the silent star Pola Negri's first talkie, A

Woman Commands (1932). He returned to England in 1932 to continue his acting ca-reer, his prolific film roles including a naval officer in The Midshipmaid (1932) with Jessie Ghoul (1933), a friend to hero in Dark Journey (1937), and the conceited star football player who is poisoned during a match in Thorold Dickinson's enjoyable Arsenal Stadium Mystery (1939), which featured the Arsenal football team.

Bushell's own sporting prowess surfaced again in 1939 when, while appearing with the Malvern Festival Players, he was part of their cricket team

against the Stratford Festival Players and scored 112 not out. After service in the Second. World War commanding a squadron of the Guards Armoured Division, during which he met and married his second wife Anne (his first marriage had been dissolved in 1935), Bushell returned to acting, but also moved to the production side of the business.

Forming a close personal and business relationship with Laurence Olivier, he was associate producer on Olivier's Oscar-winning film of Hamlet (1948), and later functioned as associate director on both Richard III (1965) and The Prince and the Showgirl (1957). This meant overseeing the scenes in which Olivier himself appeared, though according to Colin Clark's diaries The Prince, The Showgirl And Me (1995), Bushell "couldn't direct traffic . . . but Sir Laurence needs a chum to guard his rear, as it were, and it is a great joy to have

Tony around."
The affable and companionable Bushell was always popular with his fellow workers. In 1949 he made his first film as a director, The Angel With A Matthews, the romantic lead in Trumpet, in which he also actthe Karloff horror. film. The c.cd. A remake of a German film Ghoul (1933), a friend to hero Der Engel mit der Postune, its Leslie Howard in an acclaimed tale of a Viennese pianoversion of The Scarlet Pimper making family through three the best of all television's sci-fi nel (1934), a secret agent who generations was considered helps British spy Vivien Leigh somewhat ponderous, while his next effort The Long Dark Hall (1951), a thriller produced by Bushell and co-directed with Reginald Beck made little impression despite the star team Rex Harrison and Lilli Palmer. His last feature as a director was

The Terror of the Tongs (1961). Three of his more sympathetic roles on screen - a colonel in charge of bomb disposals in Powell and Press-

burger's The Small Back Room (1948), the urbanely devious British Minister who misleadsthe enemy in the same team's Battle of the River Plate (1956) and a kindly brigadier helping pilot Dirk Bogarde who has se-cretly married a Japanese girl in Ralph Thomas's *The Wind* Cannot Read (1958) – were particularly impressive, and he was perfectly cast as Captain of the Carpathia, endeavouring to reach the sinking Tuanic in Roy Baker's A Night To Remember (1958).

He was associate director on The Red Beret (1953), Hell Below Zero (1954) and Bhowani Junction (1956), all this serving as apprenticeship for his entry into television, where besides acting in many plays and series he produced the fondly remembered Sir Francis Drake series (1961-62) - 26 stirring episodes with Terence Morgan and Jean Kent as Drake and Queen Elizabeth - and directed episodes of The Saint. His television acting roles included the commander who inspires four former wartime colleagues to reunite in a fight against injustice in the opening episode of the series The Four Just Men (1959) and the memorably malevolent and pig-headed colonel in the chilling Quater-mass And The Pit (1967), one of thrillers (far superior to its film translation). After retirement, Anthony Bushell became a director of the Monte Carlo Golf

Tom Vallance Anthony Bushell, actor, director

and producer: born Westerham. Keni 19 May 1904; twice married, first 1928 Zelma O'Neal (marriage dissolved 1935); died Oxford 2 April 1997.

Club and maintained an active

and jovial social life.

Jock Bain

Trombone players tend to like each other more than other instrumentalists do. They watch out for each other's interests as though they were blood relatives and even the distinction between jazz and non-jazz players becomes blurred. Jock Bain was unusual at being good at both kinds of playing. It is not going too far to suggest that he was a British Tommy Dorsey. But unlike Dorsey, Bain was a good jazz improviser (Dorsey liked to be able to polish his 'improvised" solos in advance).

Bain was equally at home de-livering poised and elegant fea-tures with Mantovani or mixing it with top jazzmen like Ronnic Scott or Tubby Hayes. Indeed at the 1955 Jazz Jamborec at the Gaumont State in Kilburn, north London, Bain's jazz group shared the billing with the Ted Heath Band, the Ray Ellington Quartet and bands led

by Scott and Hayes.

Bain was associated for many years with the bandleader Geraldo, notably in a performance during the Fifties at the Festival Hall of Igor Stravinsky's Ebony Concerto. Some 10 years earlier, the then impecunious Stravinsky had accepted a com-mission from Woody Herman to compose the suite. The work proved enormously difficult for the Herman band to surmount. since it was written with symphony musicians in mind. But Geraldo's orchestra had to be given credit for tackling the suite, no matter how obscure the artistic target. Everything after that must have seemed easy.

Taking up trombone at school, Bain played in the City of Edinburgh Brass Band before playing in local dance halls. He moved to London in 1935 where he played for Tommy Finnigan's band, but by the end of the year graduated into the Roy Fox Orchestra. Bain stayed with Fox for the next three years, and from then on was always a sideman with the top line bands. He worked with Ambrose in 1942 and with Maurice Winnick in 1943, rejoining both bands in later years, before joining Geraldo at the end of 1944. In 1948 he left Geraldo to open a photographic shop in Edinburgh, but the following year returne to London.

After a further spell with Bert Ambrose and with Carrol Gibbons, both in 1953, Bain con centrated on freelancing and became a highly successful studic musician. For so distinguished a jazz musician he recorded little, although he can be heard playing fine trombone with the Malcolm Lockyer Octet of 1957. Oddly, he is perhaps best known, albeit anonymously, for his smooth. Dorsey-like trombone solo on Mantovani's recording of "Charmaine", the ultimate antithesis of jazz.

Steve Voce 1

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John Cockburn Bainsfather (Jock Bain), trombonist: born Edinburgh 8 June 1914; married 1933 Jessie Merrilees (three sons, one daughter), 1957 Valerie Tyler, died Portsmouth 13 March 1997.

Lesley Scott-Ordish

Lesley Scott-Ordish devoted most of her life to investigating and writing about the bond between humans and animals, in particular dogs. She was the founder of Pro Dogs National Charity and its sister charity Pat Does (Pets as Therapy).

She did not have a dog of her own during childhood - her first was a cocker spaniel bought just after her marriage to Peter Ordish in 1953. She trained as a journalist and in the early Seventies was dismayed by the extensive press coverage, first in the United States and later in Britain, of health hazards associated with dogs - for example. the risk of blindness from toxocariasis, which in rare cases can be passed from dogs to humans. In 1976, working at first from her home in Kent, she founded Pro Dogs, in response to what she saw as a growing anti-dog movement in the media and its damaging effect on public perceptions of dogs and their owners. She set out to highlight the beneficial influence dogs can have and to provide an umbrella organisation for responsible dog owners. Over the years, the

charity gathered a panel of vet-

to respond to health scares and

organised campaigns against

restrictive laws on dogs and with encouragement from the where they may be exercised, including work towards the abolition of the dog licence, which was eventually scrapped in 1988. From members' letters and

phone calls. Lesley Scott-Ordish discovered the trauma experienced by the elderly if forced to give up a much-loved pet upon going into residential care. This led her to found, in 1983, Pat Dogs, a national home and hospital visiting scheme through which carefully screened dog owners visit the sick and elderly erinarian and medical experts on a regular basis with their dogs. The therapeutic effects of natting a dog were impressive and

Royal College of Nursing, a not-work of volunteers with friendly dogs was set up. There are now over 9,500 of these special dogs registered with the charity. Scott-Ordish assisted in the launch of another charity, Hear-

ing Dogs for the Deaf, in 1982 (which trains dogs to alert a deaf owner to a ringing doorbell or boiling kettle, for example) and Canine Partners for Independence in 1991 (providing dogs to help the severely disabled). She became vice-president of both organisations. In 1990 she published Hero-

ic Dogs, to celebrate the first 11

years of the Pro Dogs Gold Medal Awards. These are the annual canine "Oscars", awarded since 1979 for outstanding achievements in life saving, devotion to duty and pet of the year, intended as an alternative to the Crufts prizes.

She spent the latter part of her life promoting the many positive benefits of dog ownership. She bred English setters for a while, returning more recently to the cocker spaniel. In 1996 she published Cocker Spaniels, an Owners Guide and in 1997 brought out For Love of Dogs, chronicling 20 years of research into how and why animal companionship can

affect the health and well-being of humans. She described this booklet as "something of a swansong, and tribute to all the lovely dogs who comfort and uncomplainingly love us".

Arnold Rosen

Lesley Scott Adey, charity administrator: born 25 March 1932: married 1953 Peter Ordish (two sons); died Ashford, Kent 26 March 1997.

 The main source of fundraising for Pat Dogs is their annual "Walkover Britain" event; 43 organised walks, this year on 5 May. For further details, please telephone 01732 872222.



Scott-Ordist: the therapeutic effects of patting a dog

Births. Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS BAZLEY: Sir Thomas Stafford, Bt.

late of Hatherop, died peacefully in his sleep on Monday 14 April, aged 89 years. No flowers please, by his request. Donations in lieu to the Woodland Trust or charities for the homeless. Private funeral. Memori-

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Queen, Patron attends the litter hill the New Years Rate Lim at New market Nat 1 G. The Process Res at Part Procedure, the Charlested Institute of Transport The Opera, Fation alterials the little files. Secret Res. 10 at 15 feet and 15 at 16. The Prince Res. 15 at 15 feet and 15 at 16. The Prince Res. 15 at 15 feet and 15 at 16 a

Changing of the Guard

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S. F. C. Appleton and Miss S. E. Smith

The engagement is announced between Stephen, elder son of Mr and Mrs Frederick Appleton, of Coffs Harbour, Australia, and Sandra Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs. Sidney Francis Smith, of Nottingham. Lord Clifton of Rathmore

The engagement is announced beween Ivo, son of the Earl and Countess of Damley, of Nether-wood, Worcestershire, and Peta, daughter of Mr Robert Beard, of Scobbiscombe, South Devon, and Mrs Penny Fletcher, of Axminster,

Birthdays

Mrs Sirmayo Bandaranaike, for mer prime minister of Sri Lanka, 81; Mr Chris Barber, jazz musician, 67: Mr John Barrett, tennis commentator, 6n; Miss Ruth Etchells, former Principal St John's College, Durham, so; Miss Clare Francis, novelist and achtswoman, 51; Mrs Anne Harris, former national chairman. National Federation of Women's Institutes, 72: Miss Olivia Hussey, actress, 46; Mr Henry Kelly, television presenter, 51: Mr James Last, bandleader, 68; The Hon Sir Humphrey Maud, deputy

Secretary General of the Common wealth, 63; Sir Peter Morris, Professor of Surgery, Oxford University, 63; Mr Riccardo Patrese, grand prix driver, 43; Mrs Dora Saint ("Miss Read"), writer, 84; Mrs Eileen Stamers-Smith, former Head-mistress. Malvern Girls' College, 68; Sir Michael Vernon, former chairman, RNLL, 71; The Right Rev John Yates, former Bishop of

Anniversaries

Births: Nikita Sergeyevich Khruschchev, Russian leader, 1894; Lindsay Gordon Anderson, film, television and theatre director, 1923. Deaths: Marie de Rabutin Chantal. Marquise de Sévigné. 1696. On this day: Premium Savings Bonds were introduced in Britain, 1956; the attempted invasion of Cuba took place at the Bay of Pigs, 1961. Today is the Feast Day of St Aybert, St Donnan and Others, St Innocent of Tortona, St Mappalicus and Others, St Robert of Chaise-Dieu and St Stephen

Lectures

National Gallery: Jacqueline Lewis. "Monet (iii): Monet and Renoir at La Grenouillere", 1pm. RIBA Architecture Centre, London W1: Alison Brooks, "Past and Future Work", 6,30pm,

Consecutive sentences passed separately aggregated

Prison, ex parte Francois; Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Simon Brown, Mr Justice Curtis) 26 March 1997 Consecutive sentences imposed

by different courts on different occasions were to be aggregated for the purpose of calculating a prisoner's non-parole release date under the provisions of section 33 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court refused an application for judicial review, challenging the prison authorities' calculation of the applicant's non-parole release date. The applicant had been sentenced on 5 August 1993 to con-

secutive terms of imprisonment totalling nineteen months' imprisonment. On 7 January 1994, at a different court, he was sentenced to two terms of four years' imprisonment, concurrent inter se but consecutive to the sentence of 19 months. Section 33(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 provided Lord Justice Simon Brown said that it was the duty of the Home Secretary to release on licence

a short-term prisoner, sentenced to a term of twelve months or more, as soon as he had served half his sentence, and to release on licence a longterm prisoner as soon as he had served two-thirds of his sentence. Section 33(5) provided that a long-term prisoner was one serving a sentence of four years or more, and a short-term prisoner was one serving a sentence of less than four years.

Section 51(2) of the Act provided that for the purposes of any reference to a term of imprisonment, consecutive terms and terms which were wholly or partly concurrent should be treated as a single term. . Robin Allen QC and Martin Soorjoo (Breez: Bentom & Co) for the applicant; Stephen Richards and Steven Kovats (Treasury Solicator) for the respondents.

LAW REPORT

that the critical question was whether the passing of the consecutive four year term in January 1994 operated to increase the time to be served under the original sentence. Did the applicant remain a short-term prisoner with regard to the original sentence so that he only had to serve one half of it, or did the sentence, by virtue of section 51(2) of the 1991 Act, become part of a long-term sentence so that he must serve two-thirds of the cumulative sentence?

The applicant's first difficulty was that the point appeared to have been decided against him in R v Governor of Brockhill Prison, ex p Evans (Law Report 22 November 1996; [1997] 2 WLR 236). It was clearly spelled out in a passage on p 250 that the effect of section 51(2) on section 33(1) and (5) was that even where a consec-

utive sentence had been imposed on a different occasion,

gave rise to a single term. Counsel for the applicant had submitted that that passage was obiter and ought not to be followed in the particular and different context in which the point now arose. Section 51(2) should not be read as retrospectively affecting the character of a previous sentence. The root question arising un-

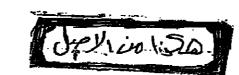
der section 33 was whether, at the date when a prisoner's release was under consideration, he was a short-term or a longterm prisoner. That in turn required one to ask whether he was serving a sentence of imprisonment for a term of four years or more. In answering that crucial question, section 51(2) required that "consecutive terms ... shall be treated as a single term".

The applicant's argument necessarily involved reading into section 51(2) words of restriction such as "provided always that they were imposed on the same occasion". There was no warrant for introducing any such major qualification into the section.

His Lordship had not the least doubt that R v Governor of Brockhill, ex parte Evans did indeed decide the present case. Not merely was it the carefully considered decision of a very strong Divisional Court specially constituted to resolve all the difficulties thrown up by earlier authorities, but the passage referred to above could be shown on analysis to constitute part of the ratio decidendi.

That said, the present case had plainly exposed certain traps against which sentencers must be on their guard. When scutencing a serving prisoner they must recognise the possible impact of the previous sentence upon the fresh one and

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister



Which Tory party would you be voting for?

wo weeks ago John Major held up a spade and said: "This is a spade". Yesterday he held it up and said: "This is a spade - and it's a shovel, too". Two weeks ago it was a "fantasy" (his word) that ministers would publicly dissent from the Goverament's policy on Europe. On Tuesday night it emerged that they had. Yesterday the Prime Minister boldly declared that any view other than the Government's line was "folly". But he then said the fools' views were fully in line with his own. They were totally opposed to a single European currency. But they could stay in the Government because they agreed that Britain should negotiate and then decide. Black can be seen as white. Chalk can also be cheese. You do not have to mix very many more metaphors, nor do you have to make a fetish of the idea of strong leadership, to find this degree of contradiction helplessly - tragically absurd.

There is a view that textual analysis of local election addresses on the single currency is an obsession of the media village, an abstruse game far removed from the concerns of real people. This view was forcibly expressed by Michael Heseltine yesterday. "I don't think the public out there are in the least bit interested in the niceties of the argument. But they are interested in the substance of the issue," said the Deputy PM.

Unfortunately for him, the views of ministers on the euro are the substance of the issue. And the single European currency is emphatically an issue that matters. If it goes ahead, as it still seems it will in two years' time, Britain is unlikely to be a member at the outset. The decision on membership, yes or no, may well not have to be taken in the next five years. But, if there is any prospect of our entering the single currency at some point, we have to be ready to take part in the discussion about its composition.

The "wait and see" policy (the policy that is, on the face of it, agreed by both Tory and Labour) is the right policy. The present design of the euro laid down in the Maastricht Treaty is flawed on democratic grounds, in that the currency would be run by politically independent central bankers. Few people are wholly convinced of its economic

But if Britain begins to suffer because it stands outside the single currency - because we endure higher interest rates and lost investment - then it may be better to join and seek to influence it from within rather than simply be influenced powerlessly

That is the essence of the "wait and see" case. But we have reached an extraordinary moment. Indeed, it is a historic one. Voters who agree with the wait-and-see policy, however reluc-



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tantly, cannot sensibly vote for the Prime Minister's party.
Why? Because the Prime Minister's

party, whatever the Prime Minister himself might say, has made it resoundingly clear that it will never countenance replacing the pound with the euro. Period. Mr Major may protest all he likes, but it makes no difference. If he were re-elected (think this through) he would either have to ditch his waitand-see policy immediately (in which case, what's a manifesto for?), or he would have to be replaced as party leader five minutes after he won (in which case, what is this election for?).

Put that another way: Mr Major is now in the appalling position of asking the people of this country to vote on a fraudulent prospectus. The Tory manifesto says quite clearly that it is "in our national interest to keep our options open" on monetary union. But if a Tory government were re-elected, it is inconceivable that that option would be kept

That is why yesterday was a fateful day - not only in this election campaign, but in the long story of British politics. It was not because the Conservative Party seemed to be divided, although it was, but because of what it was

Labour Party in 1983 is not exact, but it is instructive. On 20 May 1983, with less than three weeks to go before polling day. Denis Healey, the deputy Labour leader, publicly disagreed with Michael Foot over the party's one-sided nuclear disarmament policy. This was no media mirage, but a fundamental disagreement which split the party from top to bottom on an issue of vital national importance. The unilateralists then and the Eurosceptics now share a backward-looking notion of national autonomy – an outdated view of Britain's place in the world. The unilateralists in the early Eighties temporarily won the soul of the Labour Party - and consigned it to nearly two decades of oblivion. Draw your own

comparisons.
Tony Blair correctly describes this as the defining moment of the election campaign. It is a moment that defines John Major as a prisoner of the Eurosceptic tendency which, win or lose, will take control of his party after the election. The calculation being made by the rats on the sinking ship is, obviously, that the Tory party has already lost any semblance of unity, and can only win votes by trying to appeal to the supposedly popular position of overt rejection of the single currency.

Oh, but most voters are wiser than that. They know that the Tories are out

divided about and the consequences of of touch. They know that this clamour that division. The parallel with the to reject the Government's wait-andsee policy has nothing to do with what people are saying on the doorsteps. It is about trying to gratify Tory activists and about scared Tory MPs trying to protect their backs. John Major, sticking by a wise policy, but the prisoner of an increasingly foolish party, is complicit in that sorry spectacle.

In all probability, voters will indeed draw their own conclusion. They will not need newspapers to point it out.

Elton as the scale model

Elton John is fast bidding to become one of the nation's national treasures, a sort of pop Queen Mother. Yesterday he was awarded honorary membership of the Royal Academy of Music, in the junior department of which he once studied. Music teachers and parents will need to make up their minds about the value of his example. Should they guide against his dress sense? His judgement in choosing which football team to support? Or should they merely point out how wealthy you can become if only you play your daily scales.

- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

UK can seize leadership in Europe

Sir: I recently returned from a posting with a British organisation in Taiwan. Britain is second only to the US in the buoyant market for students from Taiwan, and also the recipient of the greatest proportion of Taiwanese investment of any European country. Crucial to the United Kingdom's success in both of these fields: easy access to European markets now and, more particularly, in a more closely integrated Union: the related desire - particularly in the case of students - to gain knowledge of the workings of the European Union: and the English language.

Toyota's announcement some weeks ago about discontinuing investment if Britain did not join surprise to me.

The English language is arguably Britain's most valuable national asset. It is the international language and will no doubt remain so, though the degree to which we continue to participate in the European Union will probably have a huge impact on the extent of its future predominance. Britain, as a fully paid-up

member of the Union, would be in an unassailable position to secure English as the Union's lingua franca. Consider the scope for the Union-wide - not to mention enhanced worldwide - exercise of British influence. Conversely, consider the lost opportunity if a Britain-less EU, or an EU in which Britain opted out of the single currency and the Social Chapter. were to choose one of its other languages. The people of the Pacific Rim are not falling over themselves to learn French and German. Yet.

As the world divides into three trade blocs, Europe is light-years ahead of both Asia and the Americas in terms of formally constructing its bloc. Nafta is, at least in population and membership terms, smaller than the EU. In Asia, notwithstanding Ascan and Apec, there is nothing comparable. Moreover, the emerging markets of both Asia and Latin America, as well as the booming economies of the Pacific Rim. lack, as yet, the sophisticated political and legal infrastructures. not to mention the political

stability, of Europe. We are standing at the threshold of what could really be Europe's century. Who in the world, having created such a head-start for themselves, would decide to "wait and see?" I say, "Seize the day."

Britain remains a world-class performer in numerous fields. Higher education, the media, banking and finance, the law. science and technology, the arts, all spring to mind.

Why must we keep playing the whining, bruised victim of Eurobullying instead of exercising leadership in Europe, given the overwhelming credentials we have for doing so? MARK RAWSON Kenilworth, **Marwickshire**

Sir. I am grateful to Robert Coppinger of the European Movement (Letters, 15 April) for his frank admission that the direction of development of the European Union towards a federal superstate is a fait accompli. I agree that the British government formed after the election, whether Labour or Conservative, will not be able to change that.



In the unlikely event that it were Liberal Democrat, it would not wish to.

This is precisely why the Green Party, at our annual conference last autumn, voted to argue for British withdrawal from the EU. As presently constituted there is no prospect of the EU permitting member states to adopt the Green policies that are essential for a sustainable future for our country

The Inter-Governmental Conference, by increasing and widening the powers of the European Union to impose unsustainable policies, will only make matters worse. JOHN NORRIS Convener Green Party International

Policy Group Richmond upon Thames,

and others.

adopted by both Tories and Labour over the question of European Monetary Union is an abnegation of national leadership ("Party caders play the sceptic card, 15 April). It is a cop-out, made not for the national interest but to satisfy Euro-sceptics in both parties. Of course it is wise to assemble all the facts before making a decision; but to assemble the facts in a vacuum of intent is cowardice.

Sir: The bald "Wait and see" policy

When the time comes to make a decision about joining or not, there will be no real choice available unless deliberate policies have been followed to meet the convergence criteria, so that any decision to join can in fact be implemented. **DENYS WHATMORE** Cheltenham.

The horror of grammar schools

Sir: The Tory plan to provide large grants to schools to become selective (" 'Go grammar' lure for schools", 14 April) prays on the snobbery and prejudice of vulnerable parents which has already caused so much inequity in

To anyone, like me, who was dumped into a poor secondary school in the late 1940s, due to the 11-plus selection examination, the thought of their return must fill them with horror. Many of these schools were an educational disaster where every child thought they had failed and would fail for the rest of their life - from the age of 11. They were divisive, had the poorest resources and naturally attracted the poorer teachers. There was an entrenched attitude with an unspoken theme which said, "Just bide your time here until you are old enough to go to

work. Rather than some schools getting more money, high-quality education should be for all. powered by good teachers and the best management and a government committed to equal opportunity. **EDDIE BEDWELL**

Sir: Two of the Conservative Party's manifesto proposals on education would spell disaster for the majority of children in areas where

there is a fully comprehensive secondary system, and would be particularly destructive in rural

parts of the country. With one in five secondary schools developing subject specialisations and another becoming a selective (rejective) grammar school ("a grammar school in every town), we are left with three out of every five schools UK education. degenerating into lacklustre secondary-modern status.

These would be underfunded, would be short of well-qualified specialist teachers and would inevitably occupy very modest positions in the examination league

It is not difficult to imagine what would happen to the educational prospects and to the self-esteem of the pupils, especially the late developers, as their schools start the downward spiral resulting from the loss of their fair share of the more able intake.

Under the manifesto proposals, it would take the parents of only one school to vote for selective grammar status for the fully comprehensive pattern to collapse. Around 85 per cent of the children in the new grammar school's original catchment area would have to be bussed to other schools, so destroying the links between school and the communities to which the children belong. We can only trust that these

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a dustime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056;

e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk, E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be

edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

proposals are never implemented. DHKEDGE Y KEDGE Sonning Common. Oxfordshire

Devastating cut in benefit

Sir: Martin Moylan (Letters, 16 April) is quite right about the devastating effect of the singleroom-rent measure on housing benefit for landlords. The effect on tenants will be even worse since there is not enough shared accommodation to go round. Liberal Democrats would revoke these regulations and will force a vote on them at the earliest opportunity in the next parliament. DIANA MADDOCK Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Housing, Women's Issues and Family Policy

Curb the plough

London SWI

Sir: The ploughing of the orchid-rich downland at Offham, Sussex "Orchids wilt in farmer's field of flax", 12 April) should not be seen simply as a consequence of the flax subsidy which seems to have prompted it.

There are many reasons why farmers may find it more profitable to destroy downland turf than to accept such subsidies as may be available for conserving it. If we really want to protect scarce wildlife habitat, we should not rely on trying to doctor the agricultural subsidy regime. Still less should we embark on the hopeless task of trying to inflate subsidies for conservation to levels at which they would outweigh all other possible

sources of gain.

The time has come to apply controls which would simply forbid agricultural activity which would destroy important habitat which is in short supply. The ploughing of downland is now one such activity for which farmers should have to seek planning permission, as we all have to seek permission for any significant change which we wish to make to the built environment. MARION SHOARD London SW20

Intolerable

The term actually originated in Edinburgh, where the district council used it to promote their widely respected campaign against sexual harassment "Zero Tolerance of Violence against Women". Then it made the journey across the

Students' Union launched an antisexual harassment campaign in 1989, we too have returned to the slogan. This year we aim to make the University a Zero Tolerant Zone for sexual harassment. But even here you have to be careful with its meaning. One of my friends has recently been concerned that my proclaiming myself "zero tolerant" obviously has something to do with my low alcohol intake. ZOE THIRLWELL

Sir: "Zero tolerance", that sexy phrase of the moment intoned by politicians and policemen, does not have the American origins they

Atlantic and has now returned to Britain as a slogan against crime.

In Cambridge, where the Trinity Hall, Cambridge

Greed killed our fish stocks

Sir: As a sea angler of some 50 years' experience, I find it difficult to muster much sympathy for the professional fishermen of this country. The problems they face today are largely of their own making and if they had their way now there would be little future for coming generations.

My club fishes on the east coast and over the last 20 years has seen a spectacular decline in the cod, haddock and ling stock. In spite of hiring the best charter boats with the latest fish-finding electronics and sometimes steaming out some 40 miles, catches of mature fish are becoming increasingly rare. Some three years ago we fished out of Amble and after eight hours' fishing our party had no sizeable fish (National Federation of Sea Anglers rules prohibit the taking of Imagine our dismay when on leaving our boat we watched a commercial boat discharge a stack of fish boxes, the contents of which were 9-10 inch codling. Completely illegal, but who cares, there must be a market somewhere. To deny the scientific evidence on North Sca stocks is typical of people who now lament about quota-hopping when they themselves sold away their fishing rights.

Perhaps, on reflection, I should

have some sympathy for these people. After 18 years of Tory government, encouraging "grab what you can today, don't consider others tomorrow", they are no different from a lot of other people. D MOTTERSHEAD

History of **vour** house

Sir. Rosalind Russell's piece on the history of London houses ("Who's been living in your house?", 12 April) touches on the fascinating past of some London houses, but implies that researching the history of a house is best left to professional researchers and ignores the wealth of source material available in London local authority record

offices and local history libraries. Most London boroughs' local tudies services hold sources useful for house historians, including maps, historic street directories, local rate and taxation records, and visual records. Some produce leaflets outlining sources for the potential house historian. Details of these local services are given in London Local Archives, published by the Greater London Archives Network

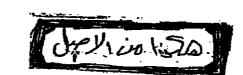
While some readers may prefer to have their house history done for them, it is much more exciting -and considerably cheaper - to do your own research, and have all the satisfaction of discovering the history of your own house for yourself.

DAVID MANDER Chairman, Greater London Archives Network

Shoot the Tories!

Sir: I have some sympathy with Polly Toynbee's inclination to go out on 2 May with clipboard and revolver to shoot Conservative voters ("The horror of a new blue dawn", 14 April) should they have achieved victory for Mr Major. in my dream, however. I shoot

the offenders before they vote rather than afterwards. RICHARD CAPERON Edgmond, Shropshire



Yes, we have no Bahamas. But

Britain still has a handful of tiny dependencies, the last outposts of a once great empire, to muck up. Paul Vallely looks at the latest upheavals in St Helena, once home to Napoleon

ype the words you are told, are these, and they are unrelated:
days of into our library database and 165-year-old blockhouse it comes up with the obituary of Larry Grayson, the pursed posturer who apparently appeared "at the Finsbury Park and Chiswick Empires during the last days of Variety". Thus it ends, that glorious enterprise on which the sun was never to set. Either there or in the Ruritanian flummery of the British dependent territories with their plume-helmeted governors and their £6,000 ceremonial uniforms.

One such is St Helena,

perhaps the most isolated of Britain's colonial remnants. It stands in the South Atlantic more than 1,000 miles off the coast of Africa - halfway between Angola and Brazil - a dark island "rising like an enormous black wart from the face of the deep," in the words of Napoleon Bonaparte. But then he was biased. This was his final place of exile for the six years until the defeated French emperor died in 1821.

St Helena is in the news, and in a way it has not been since Prince Andrew visited the island in 1984 and the Governor fell into the sea in full ceremonial dress as he tried to greet him. There has been what is said to pass for a riot among its 6,000 inhabitants. An angry crowd is reported to have set fire to the island's only police van. There have been demonstrations over cuts in the subsidy from London. Two of the five members of the island's executive council have resigned in protest, complaining of the "dictatorial" approach of the career-diplomat Governor, David Smallwood, who has fled the island by boat from which he pronounced by ship-to-shore fax: "There is no crisis on St Helena, constitutional or

All jolly good stuff. Until you telephone the island and find your inquiries are greeted with a weary sigh and the inquiry: "Is the British general election so boring that you have nothing

recently inspected by Her Majesty's former chief inspector of prisons, Stephen Tumim

on remand after starting a
number of blazes in a row with

 The island's subsidy has been cut from £3.7m to £3.2 m after a tough round of negoti-ations with the Overseas Development Administration. Two councillors have resigned in protest and the Governor has request for an early genera election, to be held on July 9.

The Governor has gone on a long-planned holiday to the

There is more to it than that. of course. For a start there was the refusal of the Governor to endorse the election of one Bobby Robertson to fill one of the two vacant posts. Mr Smallwood objected to him on the grounds that almost exactly a year ago a mob, fuelled by Mr Robertson, burst into the Governor's office in The Castle at Jamestown and seized Mr Smallwood by the gubernatorial tie. They then proceeded to occupy the place for more than three hours, protesting at the low rate of unemployment benefits on the island. "They grabbed my tie and pulled me by the throat," the Governor protested at the time. Tiepulling is a heavy duty business on an island where people would not dream of passing in the street without saying hello.

ity. It was comparatively simple after the Second World War when the burdens of empire began to outweigh the benefits to grant independence to Britain's larger colonies, in the post-colonial economic struc- strategic importance, they now tures). But with the smaller seem too quaint to be seriously dependencies it was not so politically incorrect. simple, which is why we still have 14 - until, that is, the

his girlfriend.

agreed to the councillors'

But there is a grimmer real-

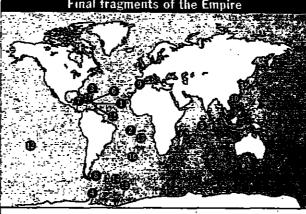


Colonial legacy: the troubled island of St Helena, and (right) the Governor of Bermuda. Lord Waddington, in full feathered flummery

Last Post at midnight on 30 June at the New Convention Centre in Hong Kong.

After getting shot of the Bahamas and other dependencies, the remnant of empire today consists in Bermuda. Gibraliar and five Caribbean territories - Anguilla, Montserrat, the Cayman Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the British Virgin Islands. There are also four South Atlantic dependencies - the British Antarctic (population: 300 scientists), the Falklands Islands, the whaling stations South Georgia and South Sand-wich and St Helena and Dependencies (which include Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha). In addition there are - in the Pacific - Pitcairn, Henderson. Ducie and Oeno islands (total population: 50; chief income: postage stamps). And there is the British Indian Ocean Territory (population: 0 since all the inhabitants were evicted to make way for the US military base on Diego Garcia). True, Spain and Argentina want Gibraltar and the Malvinas back, but the rest of it summons belief that they might be eco- a residuum of schoolboy pride nomically viable (had they not been, in most cases, left with still sprinkle the global map. such inherently imbalanced Despite their former enormous

St Helena has its share of quaintness. Its population of else to write about?" The facts, Black Watch bugler plays the 6,000 from mixed British and



Indian descent, has virtually

9. Gabralia 18. Hong Kong

8. Falkland Islands

15. South Sandwich Isla 16. Tristan da Conha

no natural resources and no airport. The Colonial Prisoners Removal Act 1884 has never been repealed, giving the Crown the power to exile trou-blesome subjects to St Helena. But visitors report a splendid old-fashioned friendliness to the "Hillman-driving, poundspending, royalty-loving, pet-owning citizenry" who are so well-adjusted that when television was introduced last year instead of becoming sullen, couch potatoes infatuated by drugs, promiscuous sex and violence researchers discovered that St Helena's already well-behaved children had become more social, more ami-

cable, more helpful. But there is a worm at the heart of the apple. The latest figures show the island It has some exports in canned

of islanders work directly or indirectly for the government. As the Whitehall subsidy has been reduced unemployment has risen; over the past two years it has gone from 9 to 18 per cent. And a baby boom will place an extra 300 in the workforce by 2005.

14. South Georgia

Anxieties over unemploment are what lie behind the disagreement between St Helena councillors and the Governor. The island receives more than £9m a year, the highest amount per head of British aid anywhere. But British aid has been slowly whittled away. Unemployment benefit can be as low as £12 a week. Which is why ties can be strained. It is not a problem peculiar to St Helena. A British initiative

its Caribbean dependencies last To Britain the arithmetic is

aimed at tightening control over

Napoleon was once at liberty to ride with his 52-strong entourage. (His grave is not there, for the British allowed his coffin to be disinterred 20 years after his death, but the houses where he lived are wellpreserved.) And tourism received a boost recently with the replacement of the hazardous landing stage with steps. Passengers used to have to grah a rope and leap to the seaweedcovered dock as their boat rose as much as eight feet in the swell. When it was too rough islanders had to watch in dismay as liners like the Canherra turned away without putting a single passenger ashore. Today passengers can simply step ashore, holding an iron railing. But the task of finding work

off the island so that locals can take short-term contracts and send money home - as they did in the past - has been scuppered by the 1981 Immigration Act. This legislation, in an attempt to avert any flood of Hong Kong Chinese, bans the residents of all the dependencies from settling in Britain. After the Act was passed the Falkland Islanders and the Gibraltarians were exempted but the only places where residents of St Helena can now seek work is on the military 🗣 base on Ascension and in the Falkland Islands, to which emigration has increased by 30 per cent in recent years.

Empire for the British was a curious cocktail of exploitation and benevolence, cruelty and paternalism, ignominy and glory. Certainly it lacked the ruthlessness of the Spaniards in Latin America, Belgians in the Congo or French in Algeria and Indo-China, Nor was its end for the British and their subjects accompanied by the appalling bloodshed with which some others came to a close, which is perhaps why the Commonwealth is still a valued and indeed a growing organisation. But its last gasp is not without its pain. For all the small-town Punch-and-Judy politics. For all the feathery flummery.



Who can we trust? Certainly not the voters

Today – an election forum special! How is the election being conducted by the main

parties? In a sophisticated, sensible way, as befits a mature

Certainly. The Tory party is paying thousands of pounds for the erection of notices saying BRITAIN IS BOOMING DON'T LET LABOUR BLOW IT and Labour is replying with a poster campaign saying TIME FOR A CHANGE -LET'S CHUCK THEM

Could you give an example

In what way is this sophisticated and sensible? It is sophisticated and sensible as compared to the way parliamentary business is conducted in the House of Commons debating chamber.

How are the two main party leaders behaving? Very maturely. They are insisting on keeping to the And what are the issues?

The issues are that you these things? can't trust Phoney Tony and No. They have just put you can't vote for the Party more money in, that's all.

So the conclusion is that we should all vote Lib Dem? Yes. Except that that would be a wasted vote.

Who says that?
The two main parties. So the two main parties do agree on something? Yes, they agree on that. They agree on lots of other things too - on education

investment and ... What do they say about all these things? That they should be a lot

and health and transport and

better. But surely if the Tories have been in power for 18 years, they should already have improved education and health and all these things?

Ah, but the Tories would say that they have put MORE money into education and MORE money into prisons and MORE money into health and MORE money into ... And have they actually put more money into all these

Oh, yes. And have they got better, all

Miles Kington

find it hard to tell the difference between putting money into something and making it better. I see. So, has it been a good

election so far? Yes, if you have been on holiday in Paraguay or trapped in a snow-storm in

Is there nothing good about it at all? Yes. It means we have

heard nothing from the Ulster Unionists for a while. Is that good? Oh, yes. For the last six months the Tories had been

going through the same ritual dance of death with the Unionists to preserve their slim majority, and the media had been going sick with excitement at the idea that the Government might tumble. Every time there was a close vote, the media would ask the Unionists if they would back the Government, and the Unionists always said, "We will make up our minds on the issues involved on the

What did that mean? It meant they would vote for the Government. The only time we ever hear from the Unionists is when there is a hung parliament. Consequently, we must all pray that there is not a hung parliament.

Have there been any unusual features in this campaign?

Yes. Both sides are content to remind the electorate of the same thing - the record of the Tory party.

They both harp on that? Yes. From different angles. of course. Tory sources tend to emphasise how wise Tory policies have made Britain the most prosperous country

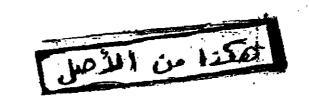
in the history of the world. Labour sources tend to emphasise the way Tory policies permitted the BSE crisis, the Scott report, the E coli outbreak, Black Thursday, the running down of our public transport ...

Was the E coli outbreak really caused by the Tories? No. It was caused by Scottish inefficiency in the kitchen. When food is properly prepared, the bacteria are killed. But no party dares to criticise the voters.

Are the public in fact stupid, dishonest, greedy, etc? Of course, in a democracy, most people are unfit to vote. Luckily, this is balanced by the fact that most candidates are unfit to stand.

Tomorrow we ask such vitai questions as, Are Michael Howard and Douglas Hogg dead or merely locked away in a cupboard somewhere to stop them speaking? Has anyone mentioned Northern Ireland in the election? If there was a hung parliament, would we all go to Aintree on the Monday and vote again? Don't miss Election Forum Special tomorrow!





Major has been fishing in troubled waters

here he stands, plucky little fellow. No pasarán! John Major cries. The armada of filthy, thieving Spanish fishing boats, stealing our fish and our fishing quotas, shall not pass! British hearts of oak and jolly tars shall rule the European waves - even if there is no pean waves - even if there is no fish left in them. Hurray!

In defiance of the European ministers' decision to cut all fishing by 30 per cent, to try to save endangered fish and rescue the long-term prospects for the entire European fishing indus-try, the Prime Minister announced that he would break the law: "I have not a shred of intention of cutting the British catch unless and until we have a satisfactory agreement on quota-hopping." (It was embar-rassingly revealed that, at the crucial ministers' meeting, the British minister had failed to speak up at all on the subject.)

But how did we, uniquely among European countries, come to sell our precious fishing quota licences to foreigners in the first place?

This is yet another story of the British government blaming its own incompetence and folly on Brussels. Major's bluster on fishing is the BSE story all over again, a paradigm of the dis-honesty with which this government has treated Europe and misled the British electorate about the nature of the European Union and the part we play

This is the true story of fishing quotas. Trying to preserve fish stocks, the EU gave each country a fishing quota and a target for reducing the size of its fishing fleet. The EU offered an incentive to any fishermen want-

ing to get out of the business, promising to buy up their boats and compensate them, paying 70 per cent of the cost, with each country mak-

ing up the difference.

But, until 1992, Britain refused to pay up that 30 per cent to retiring captains, even though it meant forgoing the 70 per cent EU grant. It was the kind of short-sighted, shorttermist meanness that has characterised so much of government in the last 18 years. In its free-market ide allowed the market to rip, and captains to sell tape. But we hear little of how those same fairtheir boats and quotas to the highest bidders. often from abroad. All the other countries made full use of the EU compensation scheme, forking out the 30 per cent and so virtually none of their quotas were sold abroad. So how, all of a sudden, is Brussels to blame for British fishermen's lost quotas?

But what, exactly, is Major proposing? If we bought back the quotas sold abroad we would have to offer well above the current market price to persuade foreign owners to sell. And we would have to offer the same high price to any British fishermen too, so there might be a stampede to sell. The British government would end up in the absurd position of having bought itself a nationalised fishing fleet at an astronomical price.

The fishermen are naturally outraged at the prospect of any cuts - but their anger has been misdirected at Brussels, with much deft encouragement from the Euro-sceptics. Remember the bizarre sight of canary-clad Teresa Gorman on a Cornish trawier? In fact there are virtually the same number of British fishermen as there were 20 years ago, and the same tonnage of British-owned ships. (Astonishingly, we allowed the number of fishing boats to increase in the late Eighties, despite EU conservation policy.) But not so the fish. They are dying out, rewards.



and no one doubts that there is

a crisis. In the last 30 years the

amount of cod in the North Sea

bas come down by two-thirds, plaice by half, and haddock by

John Major's last stand on his

fish box is all empty gesture. But can Labour do any better? Yes-

terday in public they echoed the same sentiments: they may refuse to ratify the forthcoming

IGC until quota-hopping is addressed. But Gavin Strang. Labour's spokesman, sounded more emolient: "We are hop-

ing that there will be a lot of

goodwill, a whole new rela-tionship with Europe." He talks

of approaching Europe with

the problem and asking for

help, a positive attitude in a changed climate of relations. After all, it is not Labour's

fault that Britain has sold so

much of its quota. For the EU

to put up money to buy it back would be generous indeed - but

Labour's amicable attitude may

achieve more than Tory sabre-

rattling. At least they start with

a clean slate, after the years of

atrocious British behaviour. The story of fish stands as

another exemplar of our cata-strophic European past. As with so much European policy, whether or not we belonged to

the EU we would still have to

make international agreements

about fishing rights and fish

conservation. Fish know no ter-

ritorial limits, so one country's

self-restraint is destroyed by another's overfishing. National

greed, especially in conservation

and pollution, can be overcome only by international agreement.

Poliy Toynbee Commentator of the Year

The government could end up in the absurd position of having bought itself a

nationalised fleet at an inflated

John Major's leaky policy ship was bound to be holed by the price Euro-sceptic U-boots during the election. Some 200 of his mutinous crew are firing anti-European salvos in their local election campaigns in a frantic last bid for the lifeboats, even if they sink their ship. Precious few politicians of any party are making the pro-

European case. And so we have an electorate grown frighteningly anti-European out of fear and ignorance. The Europhobes fill the voters' ears with

poison about the things Brussels makes us do

trade regulations work in our favour. Just a few recent examples: EU judgements forced the Italians to give up a luxury car tax designed to drive out British Jaguar. The Greeks were forced to let in British drinks, the Spanish our chewing gum, the Germans and Dutch our car wheels; Orly airport was forced to allow BA flights, France to license British

ski instructors, and everyone to open public

works contracts to British companies. EU pettifogging, nit-picking regulations that undermine national sovereignty are the stuff of free trade, if free trade is what you want. If not, then everyone else will design their own pettifogging, nit-picking regulations to ensure that Britain is excluded from trade with them. Amid myths about straight bananas and fishermen's hairnets, the essential purpose and nature of the European Union cludes a British electorate that has been uniquely misinformed

and misled by cowardly politicians. It is too much to expect Labour in midelection to blow the European trumpet. We can only hope that afterwards they will begin the gradual process of introducing the British to the benefits of co-operation, instead of hostile confrontation. Fish will be Labour's first test of whether their gentler approach yields richer

Breaking the rules of the gentlemen's club

by Louise Jury

and 11 bars but no crèche. The priori-ties in the facilities at the House of Com-

A male preserve run like a gentlemen's club, the splash of colour from a Teresa Gorman blouse or a Harriet Harman suit was a striking variation on the ranks of navy and grey on the benches last parliament. But with a change of govern-ment now likely, another poten-tially far-reaching change is on the cards - for the first time, more than 100 women may be elected to the House.

There are some who can barely believe this is possible. Lesley Abdela, who 17 years ago founded the 300 Group to try to get as many women as men into Parliament, says she had hoped there would be 90. "If there's 100 I'll be cracking open the champagne. I'll be over the moon," she said yesterday. A detailed breakdown of can-

didates and percentage swings carried out by the campaigning organisation the Fawcett Society suggest that, on current voting intentions, women will be flexing their muscles at every stage of the legislative process in the next parliament. With an 8 per cent swing to Labour, there will be perhaps 111 women MPs - including 92 Labour and 15 Tories - out of the 659 members. A six per cent swing could still push the total over the 100 mark. And that, say women of all parties, could be "critical mass". They would be no longer the odd ones out, square feminine pegs in round

"MPs at the moment talk as if male experience is the norm," said Mary-Ann Stephenson of the Fawcett Society. "Injecting the women's perspective into debates is going to be a significant breakthrough."

male holes.

For the Tories, new faces likely to be having their say at Westminster include Anne McIntosh, a married lawyer, married and a commercial negotiator. For Labour, there is Louise Ellman, a mother of two and Open University counsel-Ior, and Yvette Cooper, an economics journalist. Others in the running include Barbara Follett, the image consultant and wife of the novelist Ken, and Lorna Fitzsimons, the former president of the National Union of Students.

Some well-known faces are likely to disappear, of course. Edwina Currie looks vulnerable, and the Conservatives could end up with only 10 women MPs compared with 25 last time. Glenda Jackson, who swapped her acting career for Labour politics, has a fight on - against four female rivals - in Hampstead, north London. Regardless of individual for-

tunes. Janet Anderson. Labour's spokeswoman on women's affairs, believes the overall effect would be huge. "First of all visually," she says.



Women are poised to gain more power in Parliament than ever before. The knock-on effect will be to change the House's culture

side maybe 80 or 100 women. They are less likely to feel it's run like an exclusive gentlemen's club because it won't look like one."

The knock-on effect will be to change the culture of Westter, "Women are so used to juggling their lives that they want to put their time to best use. I think women will stand up in the Commons, say what they have to say and sit down. We may end up with a more

business-like approach." The oppressiveness of the present culture should not be underestimated. Baroness Williams, a Cabinet member in the last Labour government and now a Liberal Democrat, says women were an "endangered species" when she was first an MP.

When she returned under the SDP banner in 1981 after an 18-month absence, she was reminded what an "extraordinary" way it was to run the country. "It's crazy," she said.
"Most women - and it has got nothing to do with ability - find that atmosphere intolerable."

A system where the method of discussion is highly adversarial and where most of the votes take place after 10pm is "When people turn on their not one that appeals to many minister in Norway, saying she

women, she believes. And it is knew the culture had changed difficult to reconcile with having a family.

By contrast, Scandinavian early to pick up his child. You parliaments are saner, calmer can't imagine that happening places making better long-term here." decisions, not because the Scanture of government pays more respect to women, she says. "Men [in Britain] have made room for women, but they have not made changes for them."

Electing women will help to change the system, thereby enabling more women to get into government and revolutionise what and how decisions are reached, "I think it's going to make the country better run," says Baroness Williams. She joins the Fawcett Society

and Janet Anderson in naming a number of policy issues more likely to be addressed once women have a grip on power. No woman would set up a system of pensions based on a lifetime's ability to work when it is obvious that it will not provide for many women, they point out. Child care should move up the agenda alongside domestic violence and the health service. Baroness Williams says: "

can remember Gro Harlem Brundtland, the [last] prime

women said. when a minister asked if he

Women are not always their dinavians are better than the own best supporters. Edwina MP Ann Winterton opposed help for women with children going out to work because she thought they should not. And Dame Jill Knight opposed a creche at the Commons.

could leave cabinet 10 minutes

But Mrs Currie is keen to emphasise the feminine touch". She worked with the Ministry of Defence, not on tanks and weapons, but on Army housing, Gulf war syndrome and bullying. The armed forces approach is macho. I took an interest in a different way, in a different

HOME

take strength in numbers and adopt a "more militant attitude" to issues affecting women and children, and that the "chaps won't feel able to laugh and pooh-pooh" anything This has certainly been the

She predicts women would

habit of some in the past. The Tory MP David Evans, in one of his more controversial outbursts, made his contempt for his female colleagues clear. Women in Parliament were "usually ordinary", he said. They were promoted even when "dead from the neek upwards".

pected many of the new crop of women would be very good, not least because they would hard to get there. But as the numbers increased, the women would be like the men - some brilliant, others less so, a reflection of the population they represented.

However, ordinary or not, the point is that women's voices will finally make themselves heard at Westminster. "We're well on the way now. But we can't sit back yet. One hundred down, 200 more to go."

The Angela factor floors Poor John

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he Tory party could do without the two Angelas. First, Mrs Browning, a junior agriculture minister, disregards the agreement reached on the matter of a European single currency, that the party should "wait and see". Unable to resist playing the "patriotic card", she embarrasses the Prime Minister, who is forced publicly to give her the benefit of the doubt.

No sooner has one Angela lapsed into obscurity than yet another, this time Dame Angela Rumbold, no less, the Tory party's vice chairman in charge of candidates, comes out with a resounding attack on the whole notion of a common currency. "Poor John" was sheepishly obliged to let her off lightly. He found a form of words to claim she did not quite mean what she all too clearly said.

What would happen were John Redwood, Michael Portillo, Michael Howard and Peter Lilley to write in the same vein? Will their election addresses contain a patriotic defence of sterling as an essential pillar in the British way of life? Leaving aside the debate on Europe which has been permitted to go by default, John Major cannot sack members of his Cabinet half way through an election campaign. He will quite simply have to grin and bear it. He



Julian Critchley

What a shame that Heseltine is silent and that the party has not had leadership

on Europe

would be made to look a fool, Tory scandals were sexual; have increased steadily over countries of the Pacific rim? and the party's divisions made Labour ones, financial Eighthe years, most MPs attempt to The question has only to be

Yesterday's papers were full of exultant headlines. The Daily Telegraph: "Major defied as ministers break ranks"; The Times: "Tories rush into ranks of Euro-sceptics"; and The Guardian: "PM ducks sacking rebel ministers". Even Michael Forsyth, a cabinet minister, has lined up with the Euro-sceptics. But he is likely to lose his seat. If it has not been "sleaze", it

has been disunity. Sexual misbehaviour is of no importance, save to the families of the MP concerned. If Piers Merchant was a fool, then the editor of The Sun was a knave in offering a 17-year-old "night-club hostess" £50,000 in order to ensnare him. What is more important is the activity of public relations companies like Ian Greer Associates in recruiting various officers of the Tory backbench trade and industry committee to do their dirty work for them.

What has happened to the old Tory party? Did it vanish with the coming of Margaret

In the 1960s, Profumo and Lambton made love for fun, not money. Today, David Mellor

teen years of office have seen a series of Tory MPs embrace them both with cheerful alacrity. Why?

There are several reasons. In the first instance, the old ballast of the party is long dead and buried. MPs who entered Parhament as an extension of their sense of social obligation, or who had distinguished wartime records, were honourable men. They would not have touched the Greers of this world with a barge pole. If they wished to influence government policy, they went to see their whips, or the minister himself.

Secondly, the long years of government have seen a sea-change in the kind of Tory who gets himself elected. The upper and the educated classes have withdrawn, by and large, from constituency activity, leaving the choice of candidate to the second-rate. It is hardly surprising that the "new Conservatives" looked into the mirror and plumped for their own reflection.

Thirdly, it is now the case that almost every Tory MP wants to become a minister, which was certainly not so in the 1940s and 1950s. Today, takes the media by storm. It used to be remarked when I was first elected in 1959, that

the years, most MPs attempt to double their income, some by writing (as I have done), others by taking advantage of the blandishments of lobbyists.

The same might be true of the Labour Party, but no lobbyist would hire a Labour MP to influence a Tory minister. and the media seems to have turned a blind eye to the pec-cadillos of members of the People's Party. If Labour is returned to office, the situation will quickly change.
The saddest thing about the

Tory campaign is not the gim-mickry - chickens stuffed with out-of-work actors - but the way in which the case for European integration has been permitted to go by default. We threaten Europe with

non-cooperation yet still expect them to meet our point of view over fish and beef. Not since the Prime Minister said in 1992 that "Britain should stand at the heart of Europe" has there been a concerted effort to make the case for a common currency. Only Ken Clarke can claim credit for a robust defence of a development which it must be in Britain's interest to join. Could a Britain isolated from Europe stand alone as a trading nation in a world dominated by the euro, the yen, and the dollar, to say nothing of China and the

posed for the answer to become obvious.

What do we get instead? A defeatism reminiscent of Vichy In which spa will a Portillo-led Tory opposition make its headquarters? Will it be Leaming ton, Bath or Cheltenham? We are treated to those two old buzz-words "identity" and "sovereignty". Even were there to be a United States of Europe. France would remain French. the Netherlands Dutch, Italy Italian. England and Wales were joined in 1536. Has any Eurosceptic ever been to Cardiff Arms Park to see England play Wales?

And as for sovereignty, it is a commodity like any other. By joining Nato we relinquished our power to decide between peace and war. By transferring a proportion of our gold reserves to a central bank in Frankfurt, we will share sovereignty, not lose it. What a shame it is that Malcolm Rifkind has replaced Douglas Hurd, that Michael Heseltine remains silent on this issue, and that the Tory party has not had the leadership over Europe that it deserves.

Sir Julian Critchley was, until the Dissolution, Tory MP for WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN

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business & city

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

US tobacco companies set for landmark \$300bn settlement

David Usborne New York and Jeremy Laurance

Looking to escape a legal nightmare, America's two largest tobacco companies have opened secret talks with plaintiffs for a settlement that could entail a payout worth \$300bn (£185bn) - more than the gross domestic product of Beigium and almost as much as Switzerland's.

The talks, in Washington, denote a remarkable turn-about in the titanic struggle between the tobacco giants and their multiple courtroom foes. They could also have a favourable knock-on effect on legal action being taken in the UK against tobacco companies.

industry stocks soared on the news on both sides of the At-lantic. In early trading on Wall Street. Philip Morris shares rose more than 6 per cent to \$41.50; in London the price of BAT shares added 28p to 541p.

Experts warned the negotiations were at a very early stage and faced myriad obstacles before they could be concluded successfully. Most importantly, the central goal of the tobacco firms - to obtain immunity from all future liability lawsuits -would need the passage of new laws by Congress

Central to that legislation would be the creation of a smokers' compensation fund. It would be fed by the \$300bn or whatever figure might be settled upon - which would be paid by the industry over 25 years.

Under the deal, the tobacco companies would also accept government proposals to place cigarettes under the regulation of the Food and Drug Admin-istration, abandon all billboard advertising and agree to exorcise all human beings from their promotional campaigns.
Involved in the talks, which

began two weeks ago, are a wide range of interests including officials from some of the 23 US states that are suing the industry, lawyers for the numerous individual lawsuits also pending as well as representatives of anti-smoking advocacy groups. The White House confirmed yesterday it has also been tak-

ing part in a monitoring role. Taking the lead for the industry has been Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco. Indeed, the chiefs of both companies - Geoffrey Bible for Philip Morris and Steven Goldstone for RJR Nabisco - have both attended negotiating sessions. The companies have been speaking also for BAT and its US subsidiary. Brown & Williamson, and Lorillard of Loews Corp.

That the industry would eventually be driven to seeking a negotiated truce has been widely predicted. In recent weeks, it has watched the legal pressure against it mount.

Crucial was the decision last month by the Liggett Group, America's smallest cigarette company, to strike its own deal with the 22 suing states. Liggett has handed over industry documents that may prove deeply incriminating. Also sounding alarm bells is a private lawsuit just starting in Florida against R J Reynolds.

In the Florida case, the plain-tiff's lawyer is Norwood Wilner, who last year won \$750,000 in damages for a client against Brown & Williamson. It was the first time the industry was forced to make such a payout and possibly the point at which it realised that its legal difficulties were insurmountable.

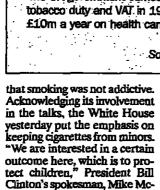
Even a few months ago, the concessions being discussed in the negotiations would have been unthinkable for the industry. It was only in 1993, for instance, that the chiefs of all the main companies stood before Congress and under oath, said anything that might give the im-

- Tobacco was introduced to Europe from the New World at the end of the 15th century. Smoking spread rapidly
- and was long regarded as having medicinal value.

 Smoking only became a mass make at the start of this century, and it was not until after the Second World War that the health dangers were identified.

 More than 100 billion cigarettes are sold every week equal to about 16 for every main, woman, and spillion.
- the world-
- Since 1980 the number of cigarettes smoked in the world has increased by more than £ 000 billion a year. Six countries account for more than haif of the total world market for cigarettes, last put at 5,422 billion in
- World-wide, in excess of 14.5 million people depend on the tobacco industry for employment.
- BAT Industries, the UK's largest tobacco company, sold more than 670 billion cigarettes in 1995. The company's tobacco operations has 53,000 employees. About 12.6 million adults in the UK smoke cigarettes -
- 29 per cent of men and 28 per cent of women. Almost a quarter of 15-year-olds in the UK are regular smokers, despite it being illegal to sell cigarettes to children aged under 16,...
- Around 120,000 smokers in the blk die every year as a result of their tobacco habit.
- The UK government earned £8.98bn in revenue from tobacco duty and VAT in 1994/95, but spends only £10m a year on health campaigns against tobacco use.

Sources: BAT industries and ASH



If a pact can be agreed, steering it through Congress would be monumentally difficult. Politicians will be wary of granting blanket immunity from future litigation or agreeing to pression of letting the industry off the hook. Indeed, the \$300bn figure is

not quite as mighty as it at first seems. To pay for it, the US companies would need only to increase the cost of a pack of 20 cigarettes by 50 cents, or about 25 per cent. "That would not even be enough to reduce consumption," remarked Graham Kelder of the Tobacco Products Liability Project of the Northeastern Law School.

The benefits of a truce to the market values of the companies A deal, meanwhile, might action, should also be considered. The rob the tobacco industry's mast. Write or behalf of a further 12.



Smoke gets in their eyes: US tobacco groups, faced with multi-billion world-wide Photograph: Tony Buckingham lawsuits are negotiating a damage-limitation ex

cost of the settlement would be fervent opponents of the feelvery minimal relative to the discount applied to their stocks," Roy Burry of Oppenheimer Securities said yesterday.

So far little is known on how the talks are progressing. "Basically, what I'm doing is lis-tening." Hubert Humphrey III, Attorney General of Minnesota, said yesterday. "I think the tobacco industry is in big trou-ble and they know it. I think their proposals still fall short of what we'd be interested in.'

litigants are to be issued in the ing they most yearn - that punishment has been delivered. "It may be that this is an industry that doesn't deserve

over the years," Mr Kelder In Britain, lawyers said yes-

terday a settlement in the US would strengthen the hand of the 23 former smokers with lung cancer who are suing the tobacco companies in a joint

next few days as part of the combined action against Imperial Tobacco and Gallabers but the case is not expected to come to court until the end of next year. peace because of all the harm Martyn Day, the solicitor of they have done to the public

Leigh Day and Company who is co-ordinating the actions, said: "I am absolutely delighted. The tobacco companies are being forced into these settlements to survive. They know if they carry on fighting there's a very good chance that they will

Unemployment hits six-year low

Diane Coyle

Figures showing unemployment down, earnings growth up, and lower-than-forecast Government borrowing last financial year confirmed City analysts in the view that interest rates need to rise after the election without dispersing the widespread gloom about the state of

The Conservatives were swift to point to the buoyant state of the economy. A fresh row about the distortions to the headline number of benefit claimants could not overshadow a batch of upbeat figures on joblessness, employment, vacancies and pay.

Kenneth Clarke also repeated his claim that the Government budget was on track to in the numbers able to claim earnings from 4.75 per balance by 2000. But critics said benefits is giving a misleading 5 per cent in February.

the number of women at work

reached an all-time high in the

latest quarter, while the num-

ber of men with jobs continued

to decline, writes Diane Coyle.

women in employment, ac-cording to the latest Labour

tire workforce, and the pro-

the public finances should be in impression of improvement in Paul Gregg at the London a healthier state, even though the labour market." the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR) last financial year was, at £22.8bn,

some £3.6bn below target. The headline unemployment rate fell to 6.1 per cent, its lowest for six years, last month. A fall of 41,100 took the total number of claimants to 1,707,000.

The Office for National Statistics cautiously admitted the underlying rate of fall in the total was higher than the 15,000-20,000 a month it had estimated before the introduction of the Jobseekers' Allowance in Oc-

climbing, reaching 54.2 per cent, male participation has

been on a downward trend, de-

This is not just the result of

are likely to be in jobs.

Labour repeated its accusation that the headline figure was fiddled. TUC general secretary John Monks said: "The fall

Most economists thought other figures yesterday confirmed the picture of a booming economy. The more reliable quarterly Labour Force Survey showed a drop of 111,000 in unemployment to 2.111.000 in December to February - smaller than the 181,700 drop in the claimant count during the same months.

Employment increased by 135,000 during the latest quarter, and by 351,000 over the past year. Notifications of new vacancies at Jobcentres set a record, reaching 249,500 in

The tighter conditions were reflected in an increase in the underlying growth of average earnings from 4.75 per cent to

the kind of labour market boom we last experienced in the late

Separate figures showed that a combination of tough spending control and higher tax receipts than forecast helped the PSBR beat the Budget target of £26.4bn for 1995/96 by £3.6bn. Privatisation proceeds contributed £4.4bn.

Alistair Darling, Labour's Treasury spokesman, said: "Government borrowing is far higher than it should be at this stage." City experts said the big problem for the next government would be meeting even tougher spending plans for the next three years.

Employment and the economy, page 26

Battle of the sexes Male and female employees 11.50 One of the most striking of yes-terday's statistics revealed that women who work has been 19.50 clining to 72.2 per cent in the latest quarter. Within a few There are 11.6 million years more women than men 82 88 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97

Force Survey, 5.2 million of them part-time. Females now make up 41 per cent of the enjoyment legislation encouraging the creation of part-time jobs in the UK. More and more dence of these economies on service industries. The share of services, traditional employers of women, is increasing, whereas traditional male-dominated

nanufacturing industries are shrinking relative to the size of the econom

The catch-up also applies to educational qualifications, typical job tenure and pay.

Ecclestone challenged over Formula One stake

Business Correspondent

Moves by Bernie Ecclestone, the guru behind Grand Prix motor racing, to float his Formula One promotional empire on the stock market have become embroilled in further disagreements over the stake in the business he is likely to emerge with. Top teams involved in the

sport are understood to be deeply unhappy that Mr Ecclestone, who manages lucrative global television rights through his Formula One Promotions company, could become a billionaire from the deal. Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank, has been appointed to prepare a float this summer which could value the business

at up to \$4bn (£2.5bn). The dispute has arisen despite moves to settle another barrier to the flotation in the shape of an argument over the so-called Concorde Agreement, which divides up revenues from television coverage. Three teams, including the star constructor Williams run by Frank Williams, had refused to comply with the agreement, details of which have never been made public.

The rift over Concorde was recently repaired after weeks of naggling, according to industry sources. "The suggestion is that Bernie put his hand in his pocket and offered some more money, without putting the other teams at a disadvantage," a source close to the sport said.



False starts: A dispute over TV revenues between Frank

The latest disagreement is thought to be more serious. Though a formal announcement confirming the plans has been expected, the teams are still concerned at Mr Ecclestone's role and rewards. Constructors are thought to be insisting they should emerge with the bulk of the share after the float.

"They are unhappy with the set-up full stop. They just think the balance is all wrong here. No one is disputing Bernie's con-tribution to raising Formula One's public image, but that does not give him the right to to come away with most of the spoils," said one observer.

Inadvertently, the planned flotation has put a spotlight on the vexed issue of precisely who owns Formula One, which could ultimately see Mr Ecclestone's control reduced. During



Williams (left) and Bernie Ecclestone has caused delays

the 1980s his grip tightened on the television rights for the 16 yearly races, each watched by an estimated 400 million people around the world. In 1994 he became Britain's highest paid individual, with a salary of £29.4m, though this fell to £600,000 in the year to March 1995 for reasons which have never been explained.

One advantage of a flotation for the teams was that it would dilute the Ecclestone influence, particularly because Mr Ecclestone is 65 and has no obvious heirs to his business interests. But some teams are still not thought to be reconciled to a flotation at all. The source explained: "The problem here is that most teams are not run by businessmen. they're run by enthusiasts. The money-making side of the sport has always been secondary.

£2m over Young Tom Stevenson City Editor Deutsche Morgan Grenfell was yesterday ordered to pay more than 13m after Imro handed down the largest fine ever imposed under the Financial Services Act A £2m fine for the mishandling of investors' funds by its former star manager Peter Young was almost three times higher than the previous record. And it was increased by

over £1 m to cover the investment management regulator's costs. Imro also indicated it is planning disciplinary action against individuals who worked at the firm, although it admitted it might take another six to 18 months before it reached its conclusions. Attention has focused on the role of Keith Percy, former chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, following Imro's suggestion yesterday that "at least one member of the board of MGAM" knew there were serious problems in its funds five months before Mr Young was suspended last September.

Morgan Grenfell

fined

record

Six former executives are under investigation by Imro and Mr Young is the subject of a separate inquiry by the Serious Fraud Office.

Phillip Thorpe, Imro chief ex-ecutive, said: "The mismanagement of these funds has caused unnecessary concern to an enormous number of investors. The firm has paid dearly as a consequence of inadequate management control. This affair plainly illustrates the dangers of ignoring clear and repeated warnings.

The fine, more than twice analysts' expectations, dwarfed the £750,000 Invesco was forced to pay for pension fund violations concerning the late media tycoon Robert Maxwell. That was the previous record, ahead of a £700,000 fine imposed on Jardine Fleming last year.

It comes eight months after Morgan Grenfell fired Mr Young for breaking regulations by investing too many of three funds' assets in unlisted shares Five other executives, including Mr Percy, were ousted for fail- 🧌 ing to monitor his dealings.

Mr Young had invested in dozens of hi-tech companies, breaching the 10 per cent limit in unlisted assets that can be held by unit trusts. He concealed the investments in part through a complicated web of holding companies based in Luxembourg. The three funds affected were MG European Growth Trust, MG Europa Fund and MG European Capital Growth Fund.

Imro said Morgan Grenfell International Fund Management (MGIFM) "did not organise and control its internal affairs to ensure its funds were property managed" and said it "did not act with due skill. care and diligence when it failed to prevent the funds from making inappropriate investments". Morgan's unit trust arm,

Morgan Grenfell Unit Trust Managers, was criticised for issuing material promoting European Growth fund "without properly satisfying itself that it was fair and not misleading". Imro said Mr Young "persistently acted in a way that abid-ed by the letter rather than the spirit of the unit trust regula-tions, despite giving undertak-ings to change his behaviour".

An Imro spokesman said the fine had been determined by the nature of the breaches, the number of investors affected and Morgan Grenfell's attitude towards compensation.

Energy Group seals £580m Indian deal

The Energy Group, the coal and power business demerged from US coal division. The mine will US acquisitions, it emerged yeslarge power station in India, writes Chris Godsmark.

The agreement is the biggest since February's demerger and follows a \$120m (£75m) deal last month to buy Citizens Lehman Power, a US power trading company.

The power station will be built in the northern Indian state of Rajasthan alongside a coal

Hanson, will soon reveal further start production in 1999 with the terday, as the company signed a £580m deal to help build a tricity division, due to start power plant, to be designed and generation in 2000. The Energy Group will own a 30 per cent stake in the project, with the rest going to the Hindusthan Development Corporation.

The group's attentions are about to shift back to the US, with the prospect of a deal in the next few weeks to buy power generation assets. "The US remains our key area for expanmine to be developed by sion," the spokeswoman said.

women are going out to work in all the industrialised economies, portion has been rising steadily. Even more dramatic is the according to OECD figures. One Dow tones

Jobs for the girls reach all-time high

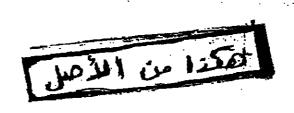
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Uncertainty will drag on for tobacco industry

The size of compensation for tobacco victims is only a part of the wider settlement problem. The headline figure of \$300bn over 25 years is based on the sort of settlement already proposed by Liggett Group, and as such is fairly meaningless'

outcome is so uncertain and legally complex that it will be many years before we know for sure whether it's a runner or not. Oh, and there is one other thing; the main beneficiaries will, as always, be the lawyers.

That being said, there is no doubt about the industry's urgent need to settle. The cost of litigation in the US is estimated at some \$600m a year at the moment and rising. That, it ought to be understood, is just the cost of success, for the industry thus far has been largely triumphant in seeing off the litigants. Just imagine how the sums will escaate once the industry starts to lose.

The size of compensation for tobacco vic-tims is only a part of the wider settlement problem. The headline figure of \$300on over 25 years quoted by the Wall Street Journal yesterday is based on the sort of settlement already proposed by Liggett Group, and as such is fairly meaningless. The Liggett formula, of approximately a quarter of revenue, spread across the industry equates to this sort of sum. Gobsmacking though such numbers undoubtedly are, they achieve nothing from a public policy perspective if unaccompanied by a deal that also brings tobacco under much tougher regulatory control.

All that would happen is that the costs of servicing past "victims" would be paid for through higher prices to future addicts. The benefit of settlement would all be one way, future generations of smokers, those fully aware of tobacco's dangers, as well as those already unwittingly damaged by the habit.

Again, this is no simple matter. To bring tobacco under the control of the Food and Drug Administration would require root and branch reform. As things stand, all products approved by the FDA are by definition "safe". It is not allowed to licence harmful substances. Furthermore, to make tobacco a prescribed drug would be to destroy the industry and make it incapable of meeting the liability of present compensation claims.

As President Bill Clinton is about to find out, the Middle East peace talks have got nothing on this.

Imro shows poor judgement

No-one would disagree that the Peter Young scandal was anything but a gross failure of management on the part of Mor-gan Grenfell's top brass, one which deserves harsh and public punishment. Few, however, could agree that Imro's findings yesterday, and the record fine handed down by the regulator, are a satisfactory outcome to this grubby and unhappy affair.

As to the quantum of the fine, £2m is neither here nor there to Deutsche Bank, Mor-

It may be that the damage to Morgan's business of its time in the stocks is punishment enough, but a fine of less than I per cent of the black hole left by Mr Young's dealings means the punishment hardly fits the crime.

The real problem with Imro's judgement, however, lies in the questions it leaves unanswered. The fact that the regulator has yet to reach any conclusions about the individuals responsible for the débacle is a teiling admission that it is in no position properly to judge the seriousness of the offence. The level of the fine therefore becomes an entirely arbitrary judgement, as does Imro's claim yesterday that the compensation Morgan offered its 90,000 investors last December was fair and equitable.

If Imro hasn't yet reached the conclusion of its deliberations, the question ought to be asked as to why it has chosen the middle of the election campaign to throw its weight around in such a high-profile manner. A cynic would say it must have something to do with the ambitions of Imro's chief executive, Phillip Thorpe, keen to prove himself and not at all averse to playing public hardball just ahead of the incoming Labour administration's restructuring of the City's various regulatory bodies.

Unfair or not, the point was being widely made in the City yesterday. Imro's posturing aside, one thing is for sure - the future does not look bright for Mr Young's supefinally went up. They can expect harsh, even brutal treatment, as well.

Again the regulator can hardly be blamed for wanting to make an example of those who perhaps thoroughly deserve their fate. The case could equally well be argued the other way, that far from being too hard Mr Thorpe is being too lenient. He might, for instance, have stripped Morgan Grenfell Asset Management of its licence. The problem with City regulation as it now stands is that the process is too opaque and arbitrary to know.

Look at what's under the economic froth

No single indicator can deliver a cast-iron assessment of the state of the economy. Recoveries are always patchy, and different bits of evidence always need to be weighed up against each other. But there could be no clearer sign of economic froth than the breakneck expansion of two particular types of retailer: the luxury coffee bars where a cappuccino will set you back nearly £2, and the speciality candle shop. Remember the Filofax accessories and Belgian chocolate

shopping spree in the late Eighties? The row about fiddled unemployment figures yesterday was a red herring. It is certainly true that the decline in joblessness has

The only thing that can be stated with orresponding that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What the White House is after is a deal that would be towards the industry. What is a deal that would be towards the industry when the would be towards the industry. What is a deal that would be towards the industry when the would be towards the industry. What is a deal that would be towards the industry when th has not got righter. The alternative. and more reliable, Labour Force Survey figures show a drop in unemployment during the past year about three-quarters the size of the decline in the number of claimants. That is still a big, and welcome, fall. The ultimate test of whether the economy is booming, though, is whether the pace of activity is prodding awake the slumbering inflation monster.

Are enough exotic coffees, scented beeswax candles and other goodies being sold in high streets up and down the land, or at least the South-east, to over-stimulate consumer spending? Do higher pay and free building society shares make higher borrowing costs a must? The most ominous sign that the answer is

yes lies in the sudden upward scamper in average earnings growth. It has climbed from 4 per

cent to 5 per cent since October.

Even those in the economics fraternity who believe everything in the economy is just fine are not, when you really look at their position, walking their talk; at the same time as talking down the boom, their money is on the emergence of more inflationary pressures. Every single one of the 45 economic forecasts listed by the Treasury predicts that base rates will be higher by the end of this year, including all the City forecasters who insist that the recovery is not all that strong. These economists, cappuccino drinkers to a

Regan debates whether to open hostilities

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

Andrew Regan's Lanica Trust was locked in meetings with its advisers vesterday as it pondered whether to launch a full-scale bid for parts of the Co-operative Wholesale Society or back off completely. A decision could come as early as today.

Following the publication of the CWS results on Monday, Lanica is under pressure to make a decision soon as it would need to open hostilities ahead of the general election.

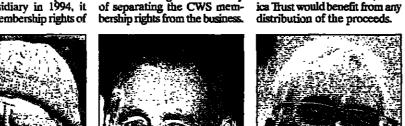
A Labour government would almost certainly spell the end to Mr Regan's chances as it would take a tough stance on any Coop break-up bid. There are 16 Co-op-sponsored Labour MPs and six of them have already laid down an Early Day Motion to oppose Lanica's approach. The motion described him as an asset-stripper backed by littleknown companies in Monte Carlo and was signed by 47

than press ahead if his chances seem futile. His adviser costs have so far been relatively low but these would rise exponentially if his "bid" went live. One possible avenue of attack

ing if Mr Regan can secure the backing of 10 of the CWS's 300 corporate members. There was speculation yesit already owns part of the Cooperative Wholesale Society following a deal three years ago in which Mr Regan bought the Co-op's food manufacturing



Sources close to Lanica were the CWS. Though Hobson was said to believe that when Mr Resold to Hillsdown Holdings in gan's former business, Hobson, acquired the Co-op's FE ed that Mr Regan found a way Barber subsidiary in 1994, it



late 1995, speculation suggest-

This means that if the CWS

rejected Mr Regan's approach

but later sold parts of its oper-

ations to another bidder, Lan-

However David Lyons, Mr

Regan's right-hand man, who is

a director of Lanica and a for-

mer director of Hobson, yes-

isn't possible to be a corporate member of the CWS without us knowing about it. You have to terday denied that Mr Regan be a regional society registered under the Friendly Societies

The CWS said vesterday: "It

factories and that doesn't make him a member". Hillsdown Holdings said it had no knowledge of the Co-op food manufacturing business ever having CWS membership rights. It said it was not aware

Regan had only "bought some

of the issue appearing in any of the Hobson documentation. It is possible that this speculation is part of the mis-information surrounding the Lanica bid". The whole issue has been conducted in the midst of what Graham Melmoth, CWS chief executive, has described as

"black propaganda". Mr Melmoth has said that even if Lanica receives sufficient backing to call a special meeting it would be outvoted by an

overwhelming majority. The CWS annual meeting takes place in Manchester next month. Lanica will not have a motion supporting its approach on the agenda. However there are thought to be several motions backing the CWS's stance and the continuation of its co-

Lanica Trust was thought to be waiting for the publication of the CWS results on Monday before finalising its plans. These showed a drop in trading profits from the non-banking operations. The poorest performer was the food retailing operations where profits were hit by a poor performance in Scotland after Tesco's takeover of William Low increased competition.

Part of the family: (from left) Betty Boothroyd; Bill Owen; Peter Bottomley; Sue Pollard; Sean Connery; and Lord Attenborough 'The first stepping-stone to a professional career'

Mr Regan is known to be What do Sue Pollard, Lord Atten-Betty Boothroyd, Sean Connery, Alan Bennett, Seamus Heaney, Michael Palin, and, it is rumoured. Maureen Lipman and Alan Rickman have in common? They could, in a small way, help decide the fate of the Co-op, writes would be to call a special meet-Chris Hughes.

As Co-op members, they and 8 million others elect the CWS board who will have to sit in judgement on Andrew Regan, if he ever gets around terday that Lanica Trust believes to bidding for the business.

everyone was, except the Tories," says Bill Owen, who plays Compo in Last of the Summer Winc. "The Co-op was the first stepping stone to a profes-

Peter Bottomley, the Conservative MP for Eltham, has been a Co-op member for 22 years. Sean Connery was a Co-op milkman and Sue Pollard, star of Hi-de-Hi, was once a check-out girl in the Nottingham Co-op. Lord Attenborough's parents were

contest. Michael Palin's big break came when he won best gentleman's performance in the 1962 Leeds Co-op drama festival. Betty Boothroyd recalls her mother using part of the "divi", the members' dividend payment, to pay

for her first dancing lessons.

The Co-operative Wholesale Society is not a simple organisation. It is made up of 51 independent Co-operative retailers, or "societies" and a handful of co-operative retailers owned directly by

"My mother was a member of the members in Leicester and he adjudi- the CWS, each of which elects a rep- to elect a representative. It can't be "It's fearsomely complicated. You rould never set up an organisation like this today. But we are the victim of our history," said Iain Williamson of the

Co-Op Union. It costs £1 to become a Co-op member, which grants them a share of the

annual profits and the right to vote each other to their society's board. Martin Henderson, CWS spokesman, said: "It's like the general election. A £1 share buys you a voting right change what's in progress.

"An offer of cash to members to demutualise would really only be effective if they were on the board. And it can take up to three years for a member to make their way up to the board," he says.

Mr Regan's proposals would need the approval of 75 per cent of the CWS board's members. They would in turn need the support of 75 per cent of the board of their own society.

IN BRIEF

Industrial output surges in US

Industrial output in the US jumped by 0.9 per cent last month. taking its annual growth to an impressive 5.6 per cent. Capacity usage in industry rose to 84.1 per cent from 83.6 per cent. The surprise surge was due to a broad-based expansion in manufacturing production, led by computers (output up 2.7 per cent in March), electrical machinery (up 2.0 per cent) and cars (up 1.5 per cent). Manufacturing output as a whole was a whopping 6.7 per cent higher than a year earlier. Analysts said the figures were a clear sign of the economy's strength. Nevertheless, Wall Street appeared calm about the latest evidence of robust growth. The Dow Jones Index was up nearly 20 points at 6,606.82 by midday.

BAe shares in orders worth \$1.7bn

British Aerospace celebrated a double bonus vesterday after sharing in aircraft orders worth \$1.7bn. Airbus Industrie, in which BAe has a 20 per cent stake, won orders worth \$1.5hn for A330 jets from Swissair and Sabena of Belgium. Meanwhile AI(R), the regional aircraft consortium in which BAe has a one-third stake, secured a \$200m order from the US domestic carrier American Eagle for 12 ATR72 turboprops.

Guinness boss gets £100,000 pay rise

Tony Greener, chairman of Guinness, eschewed previous profitrelated bonus payments in favour of a £100,000 salary rise to £700.(XX), according to the latest accounts from the brewing and international spirits group. Benefits and other perks took his to-tal salary package to £751,000 last year, up from £704,000 in 1995. Guinness saw pre-tax profits rise by 11 per cent to £975m in 1996.

Eurostar targets business passengers

Eurostar is launching a first-class service designed to compete head-on with the airlines for business passengers. From 28 April it will offer a Premium First service costing £370 return - the same as a full-fare business-class airline ticket. Passengers get free taxis at either end, fast-lane check-in desks and a four-course meal.

Hepworth sells refractories business

Hepworth, the drainage pipes to boilers group, has sold its refractories operation to Alpine Group of the US for £62.5m. Hepworth Refractories, which makes heat-resistant bricks and other products used in the metal, glass and cement industries, was put up for sale last October.

Cobham reveals European ambitions

Cobham is looking to play a "pro-active" role in the consolidation of the European defence industry and hopes the proposed sale of the French government's 58 per cent stake in Thomson-CSF will provide spin-off opportunities. Gordon Page, chief executive, said after announcing a surge in the company's annual pre-tax profits from £29.8m to £43.7m: "I wish it was as easy to do business in Europe as it is in the US.

Investment column, page 24

Oftel moves herald mobile shake-out

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Don Cruickshank, the telephones regulator, yesterday moved to relax restrictions on mobile phone operators, heralding a shake-out in the industry which could speed up price reductions for customers. The changes, which apply as soon as possible to the two newest networks. Orange and One2One, will give companies more flexibility over how they sell airtime to consumers. Traditionally mobile companies have sold through service providers, businesses which buy blocks of wholesale airtime and sell it to customers. Vodafone and Celinet were forced to sell through service providers in the mid-Eighties to encourage price competition while the market was controlled by the two networks.

The move comes as competition between the four mobile numbered."

networks is stiffening, with re-cent figures showing Orange and One2One have this year been unexpectedly growing faster than Vodafone or Cellnet.

Mr Cruickshank said he would also free these older networks from restrictions, though he was unlikely to con-duct a review until 1998. Vodafone and Celinet still have the bulk of the UK's 7 million customers. He was still concerned at the high cost of making mobile calls and wanted to see speedier progress towards num-ber portability, where customers could keep their number if they switched networks. Analysts said the changes

confirmed the trend towards the networks buying up service providers, including Vodafone's recent purchase of People's Phone. Jim McCafferty, from stockbrokers Hoare Govett, said: "The days of independent service providers appear to be

JJB gets set to win a younger market

Nigel Cope

JJB Sports is considering opening a nationwide chain of sports shops aimed at two to 10 year olds after a successful trial of two stores in Halifax and Lincoln.

The stores are called JJB Fu-

ture Stars and sell branded sportswear such as Nike sweat shirts and Reebok training shoes aimed at fashion-conscious youngsters and their parents. The stores have opened in the last few weeks and have been trading strongly. Four more will open in the next month including shops in Bolton and Altrincham. If they mirror the success of the first two stores then JJB will consider convert-

ing its smaller stores to the Future Stars format as it concentrates its adult ranges in larger superstores. JJB's chairman, Dave Whelan, said: "The results so far have been very good. We will

wait and see how it goes but if

necessary we will roll the format out."

The stores will stock Nike and Reebok training shoes to fit even a two year old. Prices are high with an Ellesse sweat shirt priced at £17.99. Britain's large sports shops

have enjoyed soaring sales on the back of the huge popularity of branded sportswear. This has come as retailers of traditional childrenswear such as Adams and Mothercare have been experiencing weak sales. Some City analysts expressed concern at J/Bs latest move, say-ing it was a difficult market. But Mr Whelan said it was a low risk strategy as the stores currently

trading as Future Stars are for mer branches of JJB Sports which had been closed but proved difficult to sell. He said the re-fit costs were just £25,000 per store. JJB will open its new superstore on London's Oxford Street on 25 April. Investment column, page24

Bre-X bosses netted millions on shares

Jim Levi

Directors of Bre-X Minerals, the troubled Canadian mining firm, made millions of dollars from share-dealings last year when the stock price was riding high, it emerged yesterday.

While the top directors at Bre-X Minerals lost a fortune on paper when the share price crashed last month, official records show that they did cash in on the strength of what now appear to be outrageous estimates of the size of gold reserves on its Indonesian exploration drilling.

in Toronto reveal that between April and September last year, the company's founder and president, David Walsh, sold 300,000 shares at an average price of around C\$25 netting about C\$7.5m (£3.3m).

Share-trading activity by John Felderho, his Dutch geologist partner and vice-chairman who in 1993 first persuaded him to buy into the now notorious Busang concession, was on an even more aggressive scale. In one day alone - on 19 April 1996 - Mr Felderhof sold

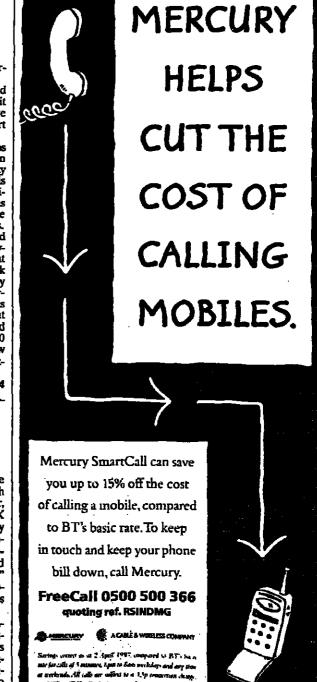
C\$5.5m worth of shares in sep-

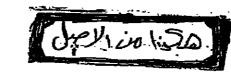
C\$15.45 after a subsequent share split). Last night the shares were selling at C\$2.17. In all Mr Walsh, his wife Jeannette, Mr Felderhof, his wife Ingrid, John Thorpe the company's treasurer, vice-president Steve McNulty and his wife Nancy and another-vice president, Rolando Francisco. cashed in over C\$100m worth of shares from April to Sep-

tember last year. This was at the time the company claimed that Busing might be the biggest gold mine in the world - up to 200 million arate lots of about 2,000 shares ounces worth £30bn - were Transactions recorded by the Ontario Securities Commission when the price was trading at around C\$170 (equivalent to doing the rounds of world stock

According to reports in the Northern Miner, the North American mining newspaper, Michael de Guzman, Bre-X chief geologist, who reportedly jumped to his death from a helicopter near the Busang prospect, could have "netted himself several million dollars" had he cashed in his share options when the price was at its peak.

The Ontario Securities Commission. Toronto Stock Exchange and Alberta Securities Commission began its investigation into Bre-X to gather information to enable staff to assess whether there is evi-





Bodycote acquisitions turn up heat

the ill-fated Slater Walker empire of the 1970s. They owe much of their good fortune to a management team led by chief executive John Chesworth, who has successfully re-engineered the group over the last 18 years or so. The last of the original textile interests – a bullet-proof vest manufacturer - was dumped earlier this month and through a series of acquisitions Mr Chesworth has created one of the biggest independent metal heat treatment groups

That helped it yesterday to reveal a 46 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £27.6m for 1996. If analysts' forecasts of £46m for the current year are right, the figure will have multiplied by over 10 times in 11 years. The market has taken time to recognise these achievements, but, after a 32.5p rise to 770p yesterday, the shares are nearly double their price 18 months ago, putting them on a forward multiple of 19.

This sort of heady rating is normally accorded companies at the leading edge of technology, yet Mr Chesworth is the first to acknowledge that his is neither a hi-tech or highly priced line of work, describing Bodysota 3.5 a plant him. describing Bodycote as a plant hire at £20.3m for the year to 31 January. business that sells time on its furnaces. But its equipment has proved itself for-like sales figures, which grew by an more efficient and more reliable than

Heavy capital investment, set to almost double to £37.6m this year, has helped Bodycote grab a significant share of the market for heat treating other manufacturers' components in every industry from aerospace to electric hand tools, giving them hardness and durability. There is still plenty more to go for. Bodycote reckons it has less than a fifth of an outsourced UK market put at £100m, while three-quarters of heat treatment work is still carried

Despite the modesty of Mr Ches-worth's description, Bodycote has some fairly whizzy businesses. Its commanding position in hot isostatic processing takes it into high-integrity applications like aero-engine blades.

The outlook for the 18 per cent of the group's sales into the currently booming aerospace industry is set fair, while automotive, a further 22 per cent of the business, is looking reasonable, at least in the Anglo-Saxon countries. But the main short-term excitement at Bodycote remains acquisition-led.

Last year it spent £112m, including debt, on 10 purchases, culminating in Brukens of Sweden, making it one of Europe's biggest heat treatment groups. Around three-quarters of last year's profits growth came from acquisitions and analysts expect Brukens to chip in over £10m to this year's figures. It is targeting heat treatment and laboratory testing companies in the US and talking to some, backed by £20m

Bodycote International and its chairman, Joe Dwek, are two of the more successful remnants of THE INVESTMENT COLUMN than its rivals JD Sports and substantially more than Blacks Leisure, which is on a rating of 16, JJB is clearly a

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

£80m in firepower. Well clear of last November's rights issue at 600p, the shares are a firm hold as one of the select band of high-growth

JJB figures set more records

engineering companies.

The quoted sports retailers have been having a high old time of it recently. Buoyed by the increasing popularity of branded sportswear and helped by the fragmented ownership of sports shops, the likes of JJB Sports, JD Sports and Blacks Leisure have been enjoying huge profits growth and soaring share prices.

JJB Sports, the chain founded by former footballer Dave Whelan in 1971, confirmed the growth trend yesterday with another bumper set of figures. Profits were 58 per cent ahead Even more impressive were the likeastonishing 38 per cent over the year and are also up strongly in current trad-

of net cash which could give it up to ing. However, the latest 11 weeks are being set against a weak comparable period for last year when bad weather

JJB is certainly an impressive story and the shares have now risen more than sixfold since the flotation in late 1994. They jumped another 5p yesterday to close at a record high of 429p. It now has 167 stores and opened 25 new superstores over the year and a further eight since the year-end. Next year it will open 39 more outlets.

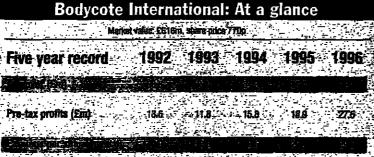
The company has abandoned its experiment in Spain and is closing its three stores at a cost of £387,000. More ambitious, however, is the plan to convert some of the smaller stores to a new format aimed at children aged two to 10.

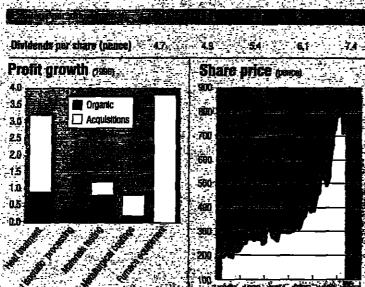
Called Future Stars, the plan is to capitalise on the market for junior repli-ca kits and tiny training shoes. This has raised some eyebrows in the City as this is seen as a risky market.
While the JJB tale is obviously an

impressive story, the problem for

potential investors is its rather fright-

ening rating. On forecast profits of £27m, the shares trade on a prospective priceearnings ratio of 23, which is higher





is on a rating of 16. JJB is clearly a quality company but there may be better value elsewhere.

Cobham steps on road to recovery

tobham is a good case study in the pames can ride if they disappoint a market that has fallen in love with their strategy. Eighteen months ago the market's perception of the aerospace and precision engineering group was transformed by its £75m acquisition of Westwind, which took it into the semiconductor market for the first time.

Its shares almost doubled in a year. jumping to a sizeable premium to the market, but disappointment at the new acquisition's progress has left the shares in limbo since.

Yesterday the company set out on the road to recovery with a 47 per cent increase in profits before tax to £43.7m and 24 per cent rise in earnings per share coming in bang in line with analysts' expectations. More impor-tantly, Cobham had an impressive order book to show the City and good news to tell on Westwind's progress, which sent the shares 35p higher to 652.5p, close to the 669.5p high reached at the end of last year.

Although sales of its air bearing spindles, used to control the manufacture of printed circuit boards, have been slower to materialise than brokers hoped it now looks as if once they get going volumes will be much higher than previously thought. New applications for the technology, such as the manufacture of scanning devices, look to have good potential as well and initial expectations that Westwind could grow profits at 20 per cent a year have been resurrected.

Westwind is only a small part of the group as a whole, so more important in anything other than sentiment terms was the slew of new orders last year such as contract awards for the British Aerospace Nimrod 2000 maritime patrol aircraft and the GEC Phoenix battlefield surveillance system. Initial deliveries were also made for a tanker conversion programme for Boeing.

With the core defence business arguably in much better shape than a year ago, it would not be unreasonable for Cobham's shares to recover the premium rating they lost last summer. On the basis of forecast profits before tax of £49m this year and £55.5m next time the shares trade on a price/earnings ratio of 18, falling to 16. That accounts for most of the good news, but analysts believe the recovery could continue to as much as 700p in the medium term.

Strong sterling alarms Reed and Reuters

Magnus Grimond

Further concerns over the strength of sterling were voiced by two of Britain's biggest comies yesterday when Renters and Reed Elsevier warned that the currency could have a sig-nificant impact on profits this

Peter Job. Renters' chief executive, told shareholders attending the electronic information group's annual meeting that both profits and earnings would be virtually static in the first half of 1997 if the pound continued at current levels. The news pushed the shares down 8p at one stage, before recovering to end the day 3p lower at 589p.

First-quarter revenues have been cut by 2 per cent to £699m by currency factors, but underlying sales growth in the first three months was 8 per cent and 30 from 1996".

Reuters said there had been no impact on the fundamental

"Sterling's strength continues to have a negative impact on our reported figures", Mr Job said "Meantime, the business is performing much as we ex-pected. We mainly invoice in ocal currency all over the world so sterling exchange rate movements are not having any impact

on unit sales." Fears over the impact of translating overseas profits into a higher sterling were echoed at Reed's annual meeting yesterday. Ian Irvine, chairman of Reed International, the Britishquoted end of the business, told shareholders that if sterling maintained its current strength against most other currencies it would have a "marked effect on the reported results, particularly

But, like Reuters, he tem-pered his remarks by adding that the negative effect of currency translation did not affect the underlying operating per-formance of the group. "Over-all, the businesses continued to perform well," he said.

Reuters also warned yesturday that computer problems related to the switch to the year 2000 was hampering its efforts to develop new products. Mr Job said this effect of the change of date on existing software was a serious issue with wide ramifications. "There is a lot of work to be done and we will eat up some effort that would usually go in to new product development.

Reuters was unable to report any progress on plans to reinstate last year's share buy back, which was derailed by a lastminute tax change from the Chancellor Kenneth Clarke.

Scramble expected for shares in Aston Villa

in the first six months to June

A frantic goalmouth scramble for shares in Aston Villa looks in prospect despite the end-ofseason blues afflicting the shares of most quoted soccer

Villa, fourth in the Premier League, is the latest to join the City's growing list of stock market entrants and today's prospectus will detail plans to raise between £15m and £20m with the placing of new shares.

The listing is expected to value the company at up to £140m. Financial institutions have promised to put up the bulk of the new money. But Villa fans, who include 20,000 sea-

those season ricket holders are Tony Hales, chief executive of drinks giant Allied Domecq. and Mervyn King, economics director of the Bank of England. Mr Hales is joining the Villa board as a non-executive.

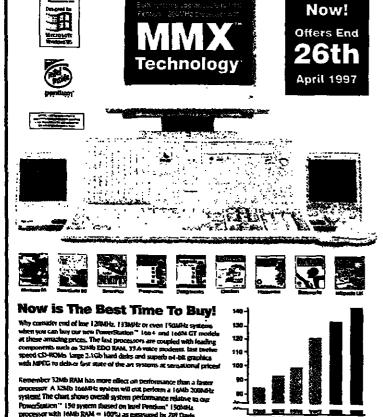
The biggest club in Birming-ham, Villa has been a consistent performer at the top of English soccer, winning the Coca-Cola Cup twice in the past five years and playing in European competition in three out of the past

That consistency is reflected in the financial results. The club has made profits in all but one of the past 10 years. Thanks to healthy gate receipts and television deals, operating profits son ticket holders, have been last year, before net spending on earmarked about 25 per cent of new players, reached £6.1m on the new equity on offer. Among turnover of £18.8m.

Separately, the rival West Bromwich Albion club in the West Midlands, quoted on AIM, yesterday announced a sharp upturn in half-year profits from £129,000 to £301,000. The shares, however, at £200 each are well down from their recent peak of £280.

Interim results were also released by Caspian Group, owner of Leeds United, that reflected the impact of net spending of £7.9m on transfer fees. Despite raising £5.3m from the sale of children's TV rights in Paddington Bear, Juniper Jungle and the Shoe People, the group made an after-tax loss of £2.63m. Attendances seem to be holding up well and television revenues showed a marked increase following a better deal between the League and BSkyB.

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IN BRIEF

Losses at Biockeys worsen to £2.7m

Blockeys, the building materials group, reported a deepening of pre-tax losses from £581,000 to £2.71m for 1996, and warned it was being affected by a continuing decline in construction activity, coupled with falling selling prices. "Industry stocks remain at over £1.1bn, representing over 20 weeks' supply at current demand levels, which will add further pressure on the pricing policy in the industry," a company spokesman said.

J&J to offload Biocompatibles shares

Johnson & Johnson wants to sell 1 million shares in Biocompatibles International, which will reduce its stake from 6.4 to 4.3 per cent. J&T's planned disposal follows the release last month of the lockup provisions entered into by the main shareholders at the time of Biocompatibles' flotation a year ago.

Capital Radio sells television studio

Capital Radio has agreed to sell its television studio, Capital Studios, to Prospect Media Group for £2.5m cash. In addition, Capital Studios has paid a pre-completion dividend to Capital Radio of £1.35m. Capital Radio will invest £1m in Prospect in return for a 20 per cent shareholding in the enlarged Prospect group. For the year ended 30 September, Capital Studios generated a profit before tax of £60,000 on turnover of £2.6m.

Ceramic supplier's shares Flare

Shares in Flare Group jumped by 11p to 140.5p after the industrial ceramics supplier released better-than-expected full-year figures. Pre-tax profits leapt from £800,000 to £3.3m. The company said it hoped to expand further this year.

Stagecoach to sell Swebus Norge

Stagecoach Holdings announced the sale of Swebus Norge to Norgebuss Invest for £7.9m. Swebus Norge is the holding company of the group's Norwegian operations and operates 250 bus-

es in central Norway. BICC signs cable venture in Thailand

BICC has signed a joint venture with Thailand's United Communications Group to make and market optical fibre communication cables in Thailand. BICC said it planned to build a £12m cable manufacturing facility in Thailand.

Pemberstone makes new offers

Pemberstone made new recommended offers worth £14.57m for First Predator Plus, Predator Three and Tamworth Assets. Agreement has also been reached for Pemberstone to make a recommended offer next month for Predator, and a separate £4.83m takeover bid for South Eastern Recovery Assured Homes.

	Compa	ny mesa	163	
	2 Tercorul	Pre-tax £	EP8	Dividend
AS Holdings (1)	15.6m (14.8m)	1.44m (1.57m)	5.1p (5.2p)	2.250 (2.250)
Blockleys (f)	8.34m (9.73m)	-2.71m (-0.58m)	-7.41p (-1.74p)	- (-)
Bodycate tell (F)	120.1m (80.4m)	27.8m (18.9m)	30,2p (19.7p)	7.4p (6.1p)
Bridgend Group (F)	14.1m (15.6m)	0.15m (-12.3p)	0.5p (-12.3p)	0.20 (0.20)
Cospies Group (F)	12.9m (1.88m)	0.71m (-1.121m)	0.31p (1.09p)	- (-)
Cuthen (F)	297m (228m)	43.7m (29.8m)	32-8p (26-2p)	11.3p (12.06p)
Deneura (F)	- (-)	3.61m (3.11m)	11.5p (9.8p)	4.5p (4.1p)
Flare Group (F)	37.1m (11,6m)	3.30m (1.30m)	11.6p (12.5p)	tp (rdf)
Intelligent Eav (F)	3.47m (4.05m)	-1.27tm (0.20m)	-7.1p (1.1p)	- (-)
JJB Sports (F)	1\$1m (89.5m)	20.3m (13.0m)	14.45p (9.25p)	4.5p (2.92p)
Turopyto Scoup (F)	5.44m (3.70m)	0.24m (0.14m)	1.01p (0.81p)	0.5125p (0.4p)
West Bromwich Albian (I)	3.40m (2.84m)	0.30m (2.13m)	4.53p (3.83p)	-{-}
(F) - Final (I) - Intering				

Mowlem float plan to value SGB at £100m

City Editor

John Mowlem is to float off SGB, its scaffolding subsidiary, in a share placing that will value the company at about £100m this summer. The return of SGB to the stock market comes 11 years after Mowlem bought the business for £160m. although the company said disposals since meant the two figrres were not comparable.

Bob Stokell, chief executive, said: "SGB is recognised as a leader in access products, and serves a world-wide market. It has an ability to provide inno-vative solutions to the most complex of client demands. As an independent company, SGB will be able to develop further an already strong brand name." SGB, founded in 1903 and

floated on the stock market in 1922, is one of the world's largest companies involved in the manufacture, sale and hire of access equipment for the construction industry. As well as acconstruction market, it probuildings and pipeline structures in the oil, chemical and steel industries.

Mowlem will keep 51 per cent of SGB's shares after the flotation and directors will be given so far unspecified stakes in the business, which currently employs around 4,000 in 125 locations in 20 countries.

For the financial year to December, SGB recorded pre-tax profits of £16m (£11.7m) on turnover of £263.2m. Mr Stokell, who joined last year when Mowlem's chairman, Ken Minton, poached him from his own former company, Laporte, said he had targeted an increase in SGB's return on sales from about 6 to 10 per cent and a rise in return on assets from 10 to 18 per cent. Brokers have forecast operating profits of £18m

for SGB this year. As well as Mr Stokell, Mowlem has also appointed Stephen Yapp, former finance director of Hadleigh, the storage tank company.

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The two plan further ratiocess products for the new build nalisation of SGB's UK business, reducing its manufacturing vides scaffolding equipment for outlets from seven to two.

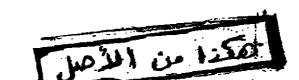
CINven set to seal £1bn heathcare deal

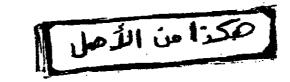
CINven, the venture capital group hived off from British with the French industrial congiomerate, Compagnie Gen-erale des Eaux (CGE), which could result in a £1bn management buyout of its healthcare divisions in the UK and France. writes Chris Godsmark

ture of debt and equity, is easily year after the state sell-off. the largest since CTNven was separated from British Coal 18 months ago. It follows its financing of the management buyout of the Compass catering group's healthcare arm for £180m in 1995. CINven is though to have beat off stiff

The announcement is another significant boost for the Coal, is holding exclusive talks venture capital industry, which has come under the spotlight following deals to sell two privatised railway rolling stock leasing companies over the past year. Managers and venture capital backers emerged with hundreds of millions of pounds The deal, financed with a mix- in windfall profits less than a

CGE has already stated it expects to receive around Fr8.5bp (£900m) from the sale, which includes private hospitals in the UK through its General Healthcare company and its French oneration, Generale de Sante. The sale will raise speculation competition for the bid, which that the businesses will be could be sealed by the summer. floated on the stock market.





Health shares provide a tonic for election lethargy

The stock market was hooked ahead of a progress report on on drugs with some of the second-line health shares attractng attention.

It was, however, a day when election lethargy took hold. Trading was subdued with the political war-of-words dulling the enthusiasm of many investors, keeping them on the

Even New York could not offer another pick-me-up.
With Wall Street showing signs
of hesitancy the market for a
time drifted into negative territory only to stage a modest late rally when the Dow Jones Average added a few points; Footsie closed 7.8 points higher at 4.294.6.

Health shares struggled against the tide of indifference. Celltech jumped 34p to 591.5p following whispers of interesting developments and Cortecs International put on 43p to 280p on stories Nomura had put out a buy signal Scotia, still struggling to re-claim earlier ground, and ML Laboratories, which seems to have come out of a long, uncomfortable dive. Chiroscience

firmed 3.5p to 384p with Lehman Brothers suggesting a 500p target.
But Shield Diagnostic remained under the weather, off 17.5p to 602.5p, despite a UBS presentation, and recent high flyers Drew Scientific, down 5p to 140p, and Tepnel

Life, off 7p at 105.5p, continued to sink nearer earth. The Glaxo Wellcome giant endured a two-way pull, end-ing 5p higher at 1,121.5p. In early trading the shares were ruffled by stories from New York casting new doubt on its Lamivudine hepatitis B drug. Shares of Biochem Pharma,

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

independent regional distrib-

utor, was given a further charge by takeover speculation.

gained another 9p to 444.5p, only 9p below their peak. The

bid rumour was vague, sug-gesting a US group may un-settle the election campaign

Other privatised shares did well. BAA, the airports group, continued to bask in SBC War-burg approval, climbing 12p to

528.5p. British Airways was an-

with a strike for control

The shares, in brisk trading,

suggestions that two investment houses were making cautious noises about the treatment, trailed at a conference last week.

The shares, however, were later lifted by details of a new migraine drug to be marketed in Europe. The treatment, Naramig, has been approved for use in Sweden and is being studied by various regulatory

authorities. Elsewhere utilities, after their storming performance, ran into profit taking. National Power was clipped 10.5p to 530p and Railtrack 5p to 452p.

It was not all one-way trafed takeover gossip, up 6.5p to 446_5p.

Banker HSBC outperformed its sector with a 23.5p gain to 1,542.5p. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson prompted the gain by putting a 1,900p target on the shares.

The two quoted cider makers were active. It seems HSBC James Capel caused the fer-ment by lowering its cider es-

HP Balmer responded by saying its volume was up 4 per cent last year and it was thinking about increasing its £29m marketing spend. Its shares ended unchanged at 569p while struggling rival Matthew Clark lost 11.5p to 310.5p. Lucas Varity gave up 1.5p to 196.5p with BZW saying sell and Salomon Brothers sug-

other flying high on the back of Warburg, up 15.5p to 680.5p. BAT Industries was puffed up 28p to 541p on talk of a setgesting buy. equipment company, added another 4p to 26.5p on the artlement in the US tobacco lit-

was again sweetened by mut- rival of a consortium and Freeport Leisure, running outof-town factory outlets, rose
22p to 158.5p, reflecting the
C&J Clark deal with MEPC.
Middlesex Holdings, with
financial and steel interests in

market report/shares

the former Soviet Union. gained 0.5p to 8.25p, just below its 12-month high. Year's results are due next month with

some looking for profits to top £10m against £5.2m last time. Dixon Motors revved up 23p to 316.5p after chairman Donald Driver said trading this year was "considerably ahead of last year and well ahead of budget". His comments prompted ABN Amro Hoare Govett to lift his year's estimate from £7.5m to £7.8m.
Pittencrieff Resources, the

oil group, held at 42.5p. After the market closed it disclosed a 60p-a-share US offer could be on its way. Gothic Energy, quoted on Nasdaq, is the

Taking Stock

☐ Bula Resources, the oil tiddler with 1.6 billion shares the former Soviet Union. Its tion flowing soon at its Salymskoye oilfield have been dashed by an early spring. It is undertaking a review of its Salymskoye programme. The of chairman Jim Stanley who resigned this week to "pursue

his other mining interests". There have, however, been rumblings of discontent among sharebolders with claims 15 per cent of the cap-ital backed a Stanley-must-go campaign. The shares fell 0.5p to 1.5p.

shares of healthcare group Biocompatibles Internatio were placed at 1,335p. Some came from US giant Johnson & Johnson. The shares

Gilts Index 94.03 + 0.12Share spotlight

Data Bank

FTSE 100 4294.6 + 7.8 FISE 250

4524.6 + 2.9

2116.0 + 3.4

SEAQ YOLUME

672.5m shares,

42,566 bargains

FTSE 350

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National Control of the Cont

How employment can boom without busting the economy

There has been more good news on the unemployment front this week - there is less of it than there was. No matter how fiendishly the Government has fiddled the headline figures, all measures of joblessness show that the economy is growing fast enough to reduce the total.

While this news is genuinely welcome, it raises two questions. First, do further reductions in unemployment depend simply on faster growth and if so how far can this go before the next government has to put the brakes on the economy to prevent inflation rising? Second, who is getting the new jobs? How the new jobs are shared

around is as important for social

reasons as how many there are. The latest two months' worth of official statistics have set the inflation alarms ringing because they sug-gest that the jobless count has fallen rapidly enough to send wage infla-tion higher. Underlying growth in average earnings has risen to 5 per cent, which is about the highest consistent with the 2.5 per cent inflation potential growth is about 2.5 per cent. Business surveys suggest that skill shortages have become widespread and, in the service industries in particular, employers are worried

about pressure on salaries. The conventional wisdom is therefore that the booming economy can and will take unemployment lower but it is happening alarmingly fast and stoking the inflationary fires. The economy is breaking the "speed limit" on the rate at which unemployment can safely ioll.

Economists and politicians alike stress the need to reduce joblessness - especially among the young and the long-term unemployed - by "supply side" measures such as training, job search support and even the withdrawal of benefits. Few will say instead that they think there is a need to boost demand in the economy even further.

But could this conventional wisdom be wrong? A book of essays published today* challenges it from a variety of left-wing perspectives, some more likely than others to win



DianeCoyle

An accountant who sells burgers is really unemployed, argues Lord Eatwell'

converts. One of the least likely to sway the orthodoxy comes from Labour peer John Eatwell. who stretches the definition of unemployment to argue that there is plenty of scope for extra demand to reduce it. Following the works of eminent Cambridge economist Joan Robinson in the 1930s, Lord Eatwell argues that there is a great

deal of disguised unemployment. He defines this as all the people doing a job where their productivity is below their potential. If you are a qualified accountant but can only find work selling hamburgers "real" unemployment rate about 12

If you accept this case, there is no inflationary danger in boosting demand in the economy. There are people productive, skilled and efficient enough to meet all the extra demand. They can move out of the less skilled into the more skilled jobs, and their place can be taken by the rest of the unemployed. This argument has something going for it at the depths of a recession but the essay does not address how much disguised unemployment changes over the cycle nor how low it might be now. After five years of economic recovery, it must be far lower.

A more convincing case is made in a separate essay by Peter Robin-son from the LSE's Centre for Economic Performance. He points out that the reason everybody thinks falling unemployment will trigger higher pay inflation is that rising un-employment has been accompanied by sharp falls in earnings growth during the two most recent recessions. But the evidence so far is that there is an asymmetry. As the chart shows, moves in the opposite direction have not, during the past two cycles, had as big a pay response. "The fall in unemployment required to produce a given increase in wage inflation was significantly greater than the rise in unemployment required to produce

a given reduction in wage inflation." This is cheering stuff for anybody who thinks it worth boosting the economy by as much as it takes to

then you are really unemployed, in his view. His estimates make the Mr Robinson himself argues in favour of a slow move simply because we cannot be sure how much further it is possible to go without paying the inflationary price. We ive already had a long expansion of the economy, and there have been no adverse shocks such as the oil price jumps of the 1970s for nearly two decades. "The new labour market regime in the UK has yet to be really tested," he writes.

So the conventional wisdom comes out on top. Perhaps a more useful thing to focus on, rather than the unemployment total, is the question of how work is shared out. A report this week from the Em-

ployment Policy Institute also concluded that falling unemployment was about to crash into the inflation barrier. But even if it were not. there is a large core of "structural" unemployment that is simply not amenable to higher demand. There is nobody in work in about one in five households in Britain. Nearly two-fifths of job seekers have been out of work for more than a year - twice the size of the long-term unemployment component two decades ago. Middle-aged men's participation rate has fallen sharply since the late 1970s. And there is a lot of evidence that education and training are not fitting many young people for jobs.

The EPI reaches the conclusion that "supply side" policies are ex-actly what is needed to tackle these unfairnesses which, if allowed to persist, will tend to boost poverty, homelessness and crime. It favours the "welfare to work" philosophy of New Labour and the Liberal Democrats. The catch is that this probably won't work if it is done on the cheap. Director John Philpott charges all the parties with wishful thinking at best, sheer hype at worst. But at least they deserve the credit for going beyond the wish-ful thought that a bit of a boost for the economy will solve the problem.

Employment and Economic Performance, ed. Jonathan Michie and John Grieve Smith, Oxford University Press, £15.99 paperback.

Two American bakers who have gone quite barking... given Fine for pets, now standby open first dog bakers we for pets, now standby open first dog bakers we for pets, now standby open first dog bakers we for pets, now standby open first dog bakers we have been fine for pets, now standby open first dog bakers we have been fine for pets, now standby open first dog bakers we have a standby open first dog ba

We've had superstores for pets, insurance for pets, now standby for Europe's first dog bakery.

Beagle Bagels, Hound Dog Hearts, Pup Tarts and Big Scary Kitties are jost a few of the gourmet dog foods available in a range of stores being opened in Loudon this Friday.

The PEISMART superstore chain is, of course, the brainchild of two Americans, Dan Dye and Mark Beckloff of Kansas City. who aim to have 25 stores open world-wide by the end of the year. Dan and Mark outline their

philosophy in a book of canine recipes titled Short Tails and Treats from Three Dog Bakery. A flavour of the book can be gained from the introduction: "This is our own wags-to-riches story of how we came to start the world's most unique bakery - a boneified, five-paw bakery – for dogs. Ours is a Canine Confectionery, a Pooch Patisserie, a Mecca For Mutts where dogs go to see and be seen, nibble and be nibbled,

sniff and be sniffed." It's obvious that if puns were pounds, Dan'n'Mark would already be as rich as Warren Buffett. If you don't fancy the book, they can also be contacted via their website: http://www.threedog.com.

How very odd. I thought we in Britain were supposed to be living in a "post-industrial society", with all the economic expansion com-ing from services. Not so, according to the latest Wealth Register written by Dr Philip Beresford, which reveals details of over 5,500

millionaires in the UK. Dr Beresford writes: "The largest grouping of British millionaires (14.3 per cent of the total worth £17bn of wealth) is to be found in industry, followed by property (12.2 per cent with £14.495bn of assets) and the City (10.5 per cent with £12.44bn of wealth)."

So all those metal bashers from "oop North" are in fact far better off than the stripy shirts in the Square Mile. The message for ambitious Oxbridge graduates is clear: Head for Birmingham. And if you're pondering



Taking the dog biscuit: Pooches can now enjoy bagels and tarts

point of a 1980s-style market bubble. Dr Beresford adds a worrying parallel with that dizzy decade; attitudes to wealth are re-turning to the "if you've got it,

flaunt it" variety.
For instance, Tiny Rowland (formerly of Lonrho) phoned Dr Beresford no less than seven times to ask where he was in the

rankings of the rich. And another rich person sent Dr Beresford a photo-copy of his Nationwide pass book just to prove that he really was worth a million quid. Pass the Bolly!

Congratulations to Nigel Whittaker, once one of the City's highest paid pr men while at Kingfisher, who has popped up as UK Chairman of Burson-Marsteller, the global group of

spin doctors.

Mr Whittaker trousered a hefty pay-off when he left Kingfisher in a board room reshuffle two years ago, which was prompted by a profits warning. Trained as a lawyer, he began a 13-year stint with Kingsfisher in 1983 at the age of 34 as executive director responsible for corporate affairs.

During that time Mr Whittaker helped fight off Dixon's hostile bid in 1986, spent four years as

Woolworths and three years as chairman of B&Q.

A keen marathon runner, Mr Whittaker founded his own pr consultancy after leaving Kingfisher, and will continue his independent consulting activities while at Burson-Marsteller.

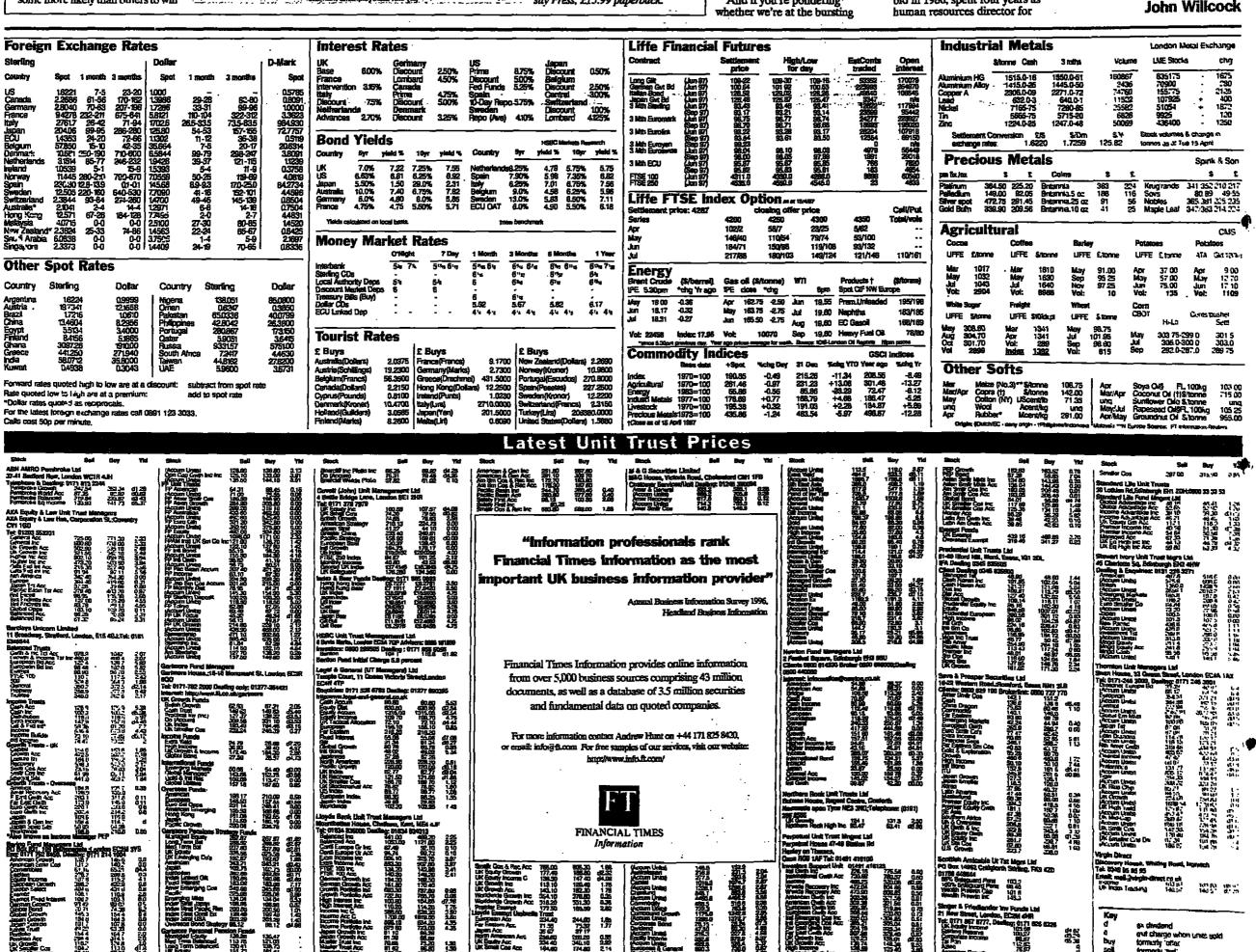
One of my colleagues Jim Levi has just suggested a possible solu-tion to the Millennium Timebomb, which is forecast to cost world business \$600hn putting their computer systems right.

The problem is that computers will be unable to distinguish between the year 2000 and the year 1900 because they have traditionally only operated using the last two digits. Thus the millennium heralds the spectre of global computer meltdown.

Jim proposes that all computers should be left to pre-tend that the year 2000 is really 1900, leaving us a century to sort things out.

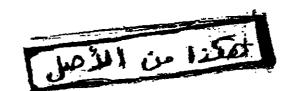
Obviously this wouldn't work with computers holding records that actually go back to the year 1900. But there can't be too many of those, surely. Mr Levi awaits his Nobel Prize

for World Peace.



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on +44 171-825-8430 or email: leeanne.gilliar@ft.com



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John Wilcon

RESULTS

NEWMARKET

2. Tregaros 4-1 (av. 3. Emerging Blarket 14-1; 4. How Long 7-1, 18 ran, won by ... 17 (Tranest by B Palang at Cochadige, South Glamorgan), Tota: 152-70; 49-10, 41-80, 15-30, £1-70, Dual Forecast; £152-10.

Computer Straight Forecast: £144.37. Inc. ast: £1,843.61. Trio: £635.40.

2.35: 1. ALI-ROYAL (h. Falion) 11-4 (av. 2. Whitin 9-1; 3. Amarak Ajoeb 12-1, 11 ran. 2. nk. (H. Cecil, Newmarket). Tota: £2.90; £1.50, £3.00, £4.00. DF: £11.70. CSF:

3.05: 1. HIDDEN MEADOW IL Detrort 5-1

|t-fay; 2, Grammy's Pet 12-1; 3, Rich Ground 33-1, 13, 175... 5-1 (t-fay Reterendum (Gm. 5, %. (t Batting, kingsciere), Tota: £6.50; £2.50, £3.60, £5.30. DF: £54.40. CSF:

£2.50, £3.60, £5.30, DF: £54.40, CSF: £60.32, Tricess £1,142.43, Tric: £369.80 3.40: 1. ANGUS-8 (K Darke) +1-1 for; 2. Galapino 10-1; 3. Hazard A Guess 8-1; 4. Bowled Over 14-1. 18 ran. 1½, ½; Mirs M Raveley, Sakbum), Tota: £4.40: £1.80, £3.20, £2.50, £3.30, DF: £37.30, CSF: £37.81, Tricest: £290.45, Tric: £156.10, 4.15: 1. REBECCA SHARP (M Hils) 4-5 ax; 2. Delibih 6-1; 3. Change For A Buck 9-2, 12 ran. 3½, 1. (G Wragg, Novmarket), lote: £1.60; £1.20, £1.80, £1.90, DF: £3.60.

4.45: 1. PACEFICA (I. Detton) 5-1; 2. Kil-cora 5-1; 3. Going Places 20-1. 9 ran. 2-1 fav Composition (6th). 2½, hd. (R Boss, New-market). Tota: £3.70; £1.10, £1.60, £3.80.

ino: Leus.OU. Jacipot of £17,409.25 car-lect tonwell to Newmarket today). Placepot: £82.40. Quadpot: £22.20. Place 8: £114.76. Place 5: £45.02.

CHEITENHAM

Z.ZU. Z. TALATHALII (R. JORTSON) 5-4; Z. King of Sperta evens tav; 3. Distant Storm 9-1. 5 ran. 12, 4, (D. Nicholson, Temple Gu-ting). Totec: £2.10; £1.20, £1.30. Dual Forecast: £1.30. Computer Straight Forecast: £2.62. Non Runner: Sapphre Son. 2.55: 1. SEEK THE FAITH (R. Durrecody)

2.15x; 1. SEER THE FAIR IN UNROUGH 2-1 fax; 2. Newlands-General 9-2; 3. Red Bean 11-4, 6 ran. 1%, 6. (M Sheppard, Led-bury). Tota: £2.60: £1.70, £2.40. DF: £5.10. CSF: £9.72 3.30: 1. COURBARII. (A P McCoy) 11-4 fax; 2. The Toiseach 11-2; 3. El Don 3-1.

9 ran, 2, head. (M Pipe, Wellington). Total: £3.10; £1.50, £1.60, £1.60. Duel Forecast: £5.40, CSF: £17.81. Treast: £44.87. Tre 4.20. 4.00: 1. DOUBLE SILK (Mr E Wildows) 15-8 ter; 2. Some-Toy 13-2; 3. Resty Bridge 14-1. 8 ran. 11, 11. (R Williams, Bath), Tota: £2.40; £1.30, £2.40, £2.00. DF: £15.90, CSF:

£13.91.
4.36: 1. FORMAI, INVITATION (R Johnson)
5-2: 2. Wee Windy 3-1; 3. Greenback 5-6
fav. 4 ran. 9. 6. (D Nicholson, Temple Gutrig. Tote: £3.60. Dual Forecast: £3.60. CSF:
£9.07.
5.10: 1. STORMYFARWEATHER (M A
Fizgerald 9-2; 2. Mystic Hill 7-2 far. 3. Pinth
14-1. 13 ran. 1/s. 3/s. (N Henderson, Lambourn). Tote: £4.20; £1.80, £2.10, £3.10.
DF: £8.10. CSF: £18.83, Tricast: £192.58.
Tor: £51.80. After a requestric foreity. results.

cepet: £54.40. Quadpot: £20.70. ce 6: £26.52, Place 5: £25.17. PONTEFRACT

4.25: 1. GOLD LANCE (R Hughes) 11-1:

£300.60, CSF: £218.54, Tricest: £1,275.02. Tric: £212.00, Non Runners: Bold Habit & Mass

Carottono.

5.00: 1. FUTURE PERFECT (C Rutter) 16-1:
2. Rupler 7-1; 3. Capitain Scott 12-1. 11.
an. 2-1 to/Over fo You. % 3. (P Cole). Tote:
£18.60: £3.40, £2.90, £5.80. DF: £38.40.
CSF: £121.54. Yno: £116.30.

5.30: 1. PENDOLINO IG Carter) 9-1; 2. ather Dan 7-1; 3. Jean Pierre 4-1. 13 ran. 7-2 fav Kathryn's Pet (4th). 1/1, 21/2 (M Brit-

tain). Tota: £9.10; £2.10, £2.00, £2.20. DF: £37.60, CSF: £64.88. Tocast: £274.29. Tric:

Placepot: £382.40. Quadpot: £51.30. Place 6: £676.52. Place 5: £299.77.

* THE INDEPENDENT

2.20: 1. TALATHATH (R Johnson) 5:4: 2.

DF: £18.80, CSF: £26.71, Tno: £84.10. 5.20: 1. DOKOS (K Falon) 9-2: 2. Reg ge Buck 33-1; 3. Lord Eurolink 16-1. 20 ran. 100-30 fev The Prince (4th). 3, nk. (H Cecil. Newmerket). Tota: 15.10; £2.10, £5.00, £3.50. DF: £127.20. CSF: £144.30.

£23.53, Tno: £113.10.

CSF: £4,67, Tno: £3,50,

2.05: 1. CHICKAWICKA (1 Somer) 33-1:

Balding's Hidden talent given Free expression According to the bookman are with an According to the bookman are seen and a seen are seen are seen and a seen are seen are seen and a seen are seen are seen as a seen are seen are seen as a seen are seen are seen are seen as a seen are seen are seen as a seen are seen as a seen are seen are seen as a seen are seen are seen as a seen are seen as a seen are seen are seen are seen as a seen a

GREG WOOD reports from Newmarket

The Free Handicap is supposed to be the irritating little brother of the major Classic trials at the Craven meeting, yet in re-ment years, all but unnoticed, it das started to grow up. Since 1991, two Guineas winners, Mystiko and Harayir, have started their season in this strange little event which sits midway between the Pattern and the great mass of handicans below (the Craven Stakes itself. by contrast, cannot offer a single Classic winner in the same period). Plenty of the spectators here vesterday believe that its record may improve still further

on 2,000 Guineas day. Most significantly, they in-cluded both Ian Balding, who

Newmarket - 2.00				
House	C	H	L	Ţ
Gernerous CER	61	84	7-1	84
	8-1	61	8-1	<u>8-1</u>
Str Taibut	9-1	8-1	81	<u>7-1</u>
River's Source	<u>61</u>	9-1	9-1	<u>81</u>
Love Has No Paide	10-1	<u>10-1</u>	12-1	<u>91</u>
	121			_
Marties Prince				
Seuszalko Bay		_		_
Supreme Sound	14-1	<u>12-1</u>	141,1	<u>41</u>
Mister Pink	141	14-1	161,1	41
Poter Right	14-1	<u> 16-1</u>	<u>181 1</u>	<u>41</u>
Maradi	16-1	16-1	12-1 2	01
Top Shelf	16-1	<u> 16-1</u>	20.12	<u>0-1</u>
Heart Of Assocr				
Sheer Face	201	<u> 20-1</u>	1812	<u>0-1</u>
Blue Riber	251	<u> 251</u>	1811	<u>6-1</u>
Restall	251	<u>22-1</u>	<u> 2012</u>	<u>51</u>
Princess Topaz	33-1	<u>28-1</u>	<u> 28 1 2</u>	<u>51</u>
City Gauthler	33-1	<u> 33-1</u>	<u> 28-1 3</u>	<u>3-1</u>
Red Embers	86-1	<u>50-1</u>	<u>33-1 5</u>	<u>0-1</u>
Eachway a quarter (ne odda,	phoes	123	4
C-Coral, H-William I	HE, 1. – L	فرطه	33, T – T	

win the Free Handicap by five outstandingly good chance." unflustered lengths, and Lanfranco Dettori, the man he helped into the plate. "The winning margin says it all," Dettori said. "He's got a great cruising speed and a bit of a kick, and you've got to respect anything that wins a trial by five lengths." Nor was it just the dis-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Teejay'n'aitch NB: Cape Cross

(Newmarket 3.00)

tance separating Hidden Meadow from Granny's Pet (like the winner, a son of Balding's top miler Selkirk) that made an impression. It was also the eager-ness with which he galloped for the line on fast, rising ground, which is something that sever-al runners this week have been

very reductant to do.
"I think he's better than his father was at this stage," Bald-ing said. "Selkirk was just half a horse as a two-year-old and a proper horse at three and I think this one could be the same. He's improved a lot. Physically he's done terribly well. He defintely runs in the Guineas and I frame on 3 May.

NEWMARKET 2.00: Intyati, among the early-price favourites, is hard to assess but MANULES PRINCE, from an inform yard, has each-way prospects.

2.30: Firm ground on many a home gallop is making it difficult to sharp-en first-time-out runners. Peter Chapple-Hyam says Derby entry ma City is hard to get fit and that today's race will be needed. SHOCK VALUE, too, is sure to be better for today's outing but the fact

saddled Hidden Meadow to think he'll go there with an

With so much confidence welling up in the winners' enclosure, if was inevitable that a run would develop on Hidden Meadow in the ante-post market. The Tote initially cut the colt to 14-1 from 50-1 for the Classic on 3 May, but after taking £5,000-worth of bets in a quarter of an hour, had a rapid rethink and sliced off another four points. The 14-1 with William Hill lasted a little longer, but that firm too was quoting just 11-1 (the best price still available with a major lay-er), long before Hidden Meadow was safely locked away in his box at Kingsclere.

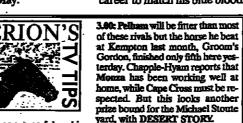
The colt might even have moved into single figures were it not for the fact that Dettori will be claimed by Godolphin to ride Shamikh in the Guineas. While the identity of his partner is as yet unknown, howev-er, punters can at least be sure that Hidden Meadow is fit, talented and goes on the ground, which is more than can be said of several of the ante-post fav-ourites, Shamikh included. This alone does not make him a Classic winner, but it will surely be difficult to keep him out of the

that this colt was successful on his

ers at least, there was also a potential Guineas winner in the fillies' maiden, won impressively by Rebecca Sharp. The quality of the field behind her is impossible to judge, but Ge-off Wragg's filly travelled and quickened well, and given that her trainer believes her to be "six lengths better" than Miss Sancerre, fourth in Tuesday's Nell Gwyn Stakes, Rebecca Sharp deserves her place in the 1,000 Guineas, for which she is a 20-1 chance with the Tote. The favourite for the fillies

Classic, Henry Cecil's Sleepy-time, runs at Newbury tomorrow, and will be expected to complete a swift family double following the success of Ali-Royal, her brother, in the Earl of Sefton Stakes.

This was a first Group race success this season for Cecil and his new stable jockey. Kieren Fallon, and there will no doubt be many more to follow, some perhaps courtesy of Dokos, who completed a double for trainer and jockey in the Wood Ditton Stakes. He too has an illustrious relative - his full sister is Miesme, the 1987 1,000 Guineas winner, and his victory yesterday held the promise of a career to match his blue blood.



debut here last year is a plus. Bold 3.30: CAPTAIN COLLINS may be better suited to this fast ground th



2.20 Fiddling The Facts 2.50 Power Pack (nb) 3.20 Cherrymore 3.50 Donjuan Collonges 4.25 Red Branch 4.55 Teejay'n'aitch

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None

WARLIAMS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: None. LONG-DESCANCE EURNESS: Balgier Flame (2.20) & Sound State-ment (2.50) have been sent 421 miles by Miss S Edwards from Pul-borough, West Susser; Bachael's Owen (4.55) sent 408 miles by C Weedon from Chiddingloid, Surrey; Barbet House (3.20) sent 408 miles by R O'Sullivan from Whitcombe, Durset.

2.20 BREATH OF FRESH AYR' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) (DIV I) £3,500 3m 110yds

SPRINGLEA TOWER R Hinton 4 10 8_

ONISHI (27) Liungo 6 10 11 .

		Paiding The Facts, 3-1 Spring Double, 5-1 Weer Bay, 6-1 by, 14-1 Double, Sheriakwandi, 16-1 officers
[2.50	ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m
1	033F11	SINCING SAND (41) (CD) P Mortesth 7 11 12_R Democely
2	01/1F42	AMERICAN HERO (27) R Alen 9 11 6 B Storey DARRING PAST (17) (D) M Herrenond 7 11 6 Real Resembly
4 5		GAROLO (36) (D) C Brooks 7 11 6
6		DESERT BRAVE (17) Mrs S Smith 7 11 0Richard Guest FILS DE (1995) Mrs S Smith 7 11 0Richard Guest

BETTIMO: 9-4 Genole, 11-4 Power Pack, 9-2 American Hero, 11-2 Singing Sand, 8-1 Daring Pack, 14-1 Desert Brave, 16-1 others

3.20	FRIENDLY HOTELS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 4f
	RED BLAZER (76) (D) Mas H Kright 6 11 12 Osborne
	ZARDER (17) N Tuiston-Davies 5 11 7C Lieucillus
	AREXARROCH PRINCE (17) Mrs M Reveloy 6:11 2 P Naves
	BONGROVE MAN (390) J (NJ 7 11 2 M A Filzgenald
	CHERRYMORE ISO Mrs. Parners 6 11 2
	SHORTSTAFF (490) Mass L Perratt 8 11 2 P Carberry
	SMART IN SOCKS (153) Aless L V Russell 6 11 2 "A Thornton
a aŭo	STAR MASTER (118) P Morneith 6 11 2
9 P1F	HARBET HOUSE (35) R O'Sulvan 4 11 ()N Williamson
	BONNY RIGG (15) L Lungo 5 10 11T Reed
	IONGHTSBRIDGE GIRL (15) P Hobbs 6 10 11 R Johnson
	MINUTES TURK (\$38) W Kemo 8 10 11S McDownii
	POT BLACKBIRD (17) R Lee 8 10 11
	APACHE LEN 082) M Hammond 4 10 9R Gardity
15	REGAL EAGLE M Hammond 4 10 9 R Oursmody
	THORNTOURI HOUSE (17) J Goldie 4 10 9D Parker

BETTING: 4-7 Red Bisser, 7-1 Zeader, 8-1 Harbet House, 12-1 Authoroci Prince, 14-1 Charrymore, Kuldinsbridge Girl, Restal Easte, 20-1 others

E	3.50	GEORGE GRAHAM MEMORIAL HANDICAF CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 3m 1: GHERN, PERSHING (28) (27) D Hordson 11.12 D R Johnson WHISPERING STEEL (47) (27) (85) 6 Roberts 11.111
1 2	U34031F F00-213	GENERAL PERSHING (26) (23) D Hondson 11 12 O., R Johnnon WHISPERING STEEL (47) (23) (82) G Richards 11 11 11

Beverley on Pricky; Johnsyro (4.45) won at Musselburgh on Monday.

LONG-DESTANCE EURNERS; Hen Harrier (3.10) & Hustmin (3.40)
sent 273 miles by J Danlop from Arundel, West Sussex.

2.10 EBF SHAROW MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,500 added 270 5f

HERST RONDCE M W Eastedy 9 0...

PRIVATE K PRIMOD 9 0. SCHROBLERRA (28) (8F) J Beny 9 0. STATISHATAM T D BROWN 9 0. WINSOME GEORGE C Fauturs! 9 0... OCCHI VERDI M. Johnston 8 9

BETTRUE: 2-1 Proce, 3-1 Occid Verdi, 7-2 Somosierra, 3-1 Erro Codigo, 10-1 Imbacingola, Castio Friend, 14-1 others

2.40 COPT HEWICK CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,500 added 5f

ROSE R He

n yes	terday's Earl of Serton Stakes
	JR Deswood
3-3P021	SEOD RIDGA (17) (D) 5 Melor 8 11 0 N Ninn
/32111	CAREBOO GOLD (43) K Balley 8 10 13
	ANDERMATT (26) J Mades 10 10 11
1116P-P	WILDOWS (13) [D) Mrs J Storry 8 10 8
	DORUMAN COLLONGES (40) T Forster 6 10 8 P Carberry
	STORMY CORAL (52) (C) (637) C Parker 7 10 4
	HERMORE-SPEED (17) (D) Mrs S Smith 10 10 3 Richard Gree
12122P	NORTHERN SQUARE (127) (BF) J M Jefferson 9 10 3
	E Calleghee (3
4251113	JELCOLGIUI (19) (CD) Mrs J Goodellow 10 10 3 Ji Bentley I

- 14 declared -

125	EAGLE TAVERNS NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 2m 5f 110yds
7,20	CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 2m 5f 110yds
	THE REVERSED SERT (26) (D) G Baiding 9 12 O. A Bains (S)
	REAL TOHIC (10) & Richards 7 11 7 (6ed)P Carbony
2/35-10P	LIEN DE FAMILLE (65) J Quinn 7 11 6P Nives
	SLOTAMATRQUE (73) (BF) G Richerts 8 11 4
P3212F	COQUI LANE (10) (C) (BF) J Dun 10 11 1
	RICHOLAS PLANT (40) (C) (BF) J Goldo 8 10 13 G Cobill
	RED BRANCH (28) J Ning 8 10 8T J Marphy
	IGHGS SERMON (17) (C) P Beaumont 8 10 ? Wyter
	BALLYLINE (17) W Kerop 6 10 6
	GALELIC BLUE (17) (87) Mas 5 Smath 7 10 3 Richard Great
	LE DENSTAN (19) (C) Mis D Thorrson 10 10 2R Johnson
	CORSTON JOKER (17) (EF) Liungo 7 10 0 J Sapple
	308 NELSON (721) P Beaumont 10 10 0C Lieucilyo
NAMES.	MANUFERCHARDISMESS (17) 2 pm 8 10 0 R Freebon

SETTING: 3-1 Red Branch, 7-2 Real Tonic, 6-1 Gaptic Bine, 6-1 The Rev

22	aaf Bert, 1	0-1 Lien De Familie, Coqui Lane, Kings Sennon, 12-1 other
2	1.55	ROYAL BURGH OF AYR CONDITIONALS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,000 2m
1		SAMANED (15) (D) Mes L Sidel 5 11 13
2		SARIT CIEL (47) (0) F Jordan 9 11 12 L Aspell
3	241521	FEN TERRIER (119) (D) F Murtauly 5 11 11 E Calleghan
4	006020-	HIGH MIND (362) (D) Miss L States 8 11 10 E Hesband
5		CETTADONO (19) (CD) C Thomas 7 11 10 N Horrocks (3)
6	401066	MASHVILLE STAR (5) (D) R Mathem 6 11 2
7		LATIN LEADER (17) (C) (D) C Parter 7 10 8
B		RACHARL'S OWIEN (33) (D) C Wesdon 7 10 7 R McGrath.
9	1/5//62	SKIDDAW SAMBA (13) Mrs M Reveloy 8 10 6
10	408-20P	JALINTY GENERAL (111) C Parker 6 10 4 _C McCormack (5)
11	56P4U2	TEEMOTH(AUTCH (17) J Golde 5 10 0S Taylor
12		ANLACE (19) (D) S Melo: 8 10 0
13	F05-P06	GALLARDINI (24) (D) B Rottnet 8 10 0
14	41/F340	PARSON'S LODGE (51) Liungo 9 10 0

- 14 declared -Minimum weight: 10st. Two handkip weight: Parson's Lodge Set 12b. BETTRNG: 4-1 Fem Terrier, 5-1 Samsadd, 6-1 Siddder Samba, 7-1 Nash Star, 8-1 Cithadino, 10-1 Rachael's Owte, 12-1 others

5.25 BREATH OF FRESH AYR' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) (DIV II) £3,500 3m 110yds
1 36P150 BOSTON MAN (24) R Whodhouse 6 11.7
2 . 205311 CHERRY DEE (19) (CD) P Beaumont 6 11 7 B Gratism (5
3 400 ARCTIC FOX (7) Mass H Vinight 5 11 2 FTIERS
4 BENEDALE L Lungo 6 11 2
5 3-30432 NORY COASTER (NZ) (22) B Da Haan 6 11 2 J Oaborns
. 6 0 LA MON DERE (99) P Hobbs 6 11 2R Desmood
7 2/15 WAY SUNSET (48) C Egenon 7 11 2
8 0-33002 NECK ROSS (10) R Brews 6 11 2AS Smith
9 0500- SOLDIER-B (392) R Curit 7 11 2
10 SO-PSS CLARASELL (19) J Cherton 6 10 11 Sizere
11 03-5302 MRS ROBINSON (42) / Marine 6 10 11 F Husband (3
_ 11 declared _

HYPERION 2.10 Occhi Verdi 2.40 Palacegate Touch 3.10 High Spirits 3.40 Time Can Tell 4.15 Zoom Up 4.45 Meranti 3.40 FARM FED CHICKEN HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO 1m 4f 60yds GOING: Good to Fran. STALLS: straight – stands side; round course – Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers best in 1m races. Right-hand course. A sharp track with tight bends. Course is east of the eary on 85286. ADMISSION: Clob 512; Tattersalls 58 (OAPs £71; Silver Ring 54 (OAPs £3); Course £2.50 (accompanied under-16s (ree all enclosures). CAR PARK: Free. BLINERED FIRST TIME: None. WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: Jup-Owe-Two (7.10) won at Remarket on Pather 16.46(page 16.45) won at Musselburgh up Monday.

_R Lappie 7

— 9 uscerva — Minimum weight: 7st 10th. Two handicap weight: Mess Bertelons 7st Ob. BETINNE: 3-1 Bustoola, 7-2 Time Con Tell, 5-1 Michael Venture, Sad Had Bad, 6-1 Matabari, 8-1 Noble Investment, Classic Mystery, 18-1 others

4	15	ELANDERS UK MAIDEN STAKES (CLAS D) £4,900 added 3YO 1m	
_			
1	60-	HEDRY OF COLD (190) Mass 5 Hall 9 0	1
2		NO GROUSING P Hastern 9 0 J Fortune	ŕ
3	. 03	PROMINIENT (23) Mrs V Acontey 9 ()	ı
2	22-	SILVERANI (158) L Current 9 0	4
5		THE TIG (199) L Lloyd-James 9 0T WITCHES	
6		ZDOM UP M Hiszton-Bits 9 0	
7	04-	FAURIA (181) N Craham 8 9	
å	•	HEVER BOLF ANGEL P History 8 9	
•		- 8 décitored -	•
KETT	MC: 2-5	Stremal, 7-1 Fauna, B-1 Zoom Up, 10-1 Heart of Gold, 1	9
		14.1 No Governor 16.1 others	-

A AR NEWBY APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS

240 F) £3,500 added 5f	4.45 E) £4,025 added 5f
3 20540-0 PRIST MAITE MSI 00 S R Bouring 4 9 9 S Webster 1 B	1 405025 CHADWELL HALL (8) (CD) SR Bowing 6912 JF Boyler (10) 8 V
2 TORIOO PULACRANTETOUCH (SPIC) (DI) I BBN 799-271000000 (DI) DI	2 000040- LADY SHERIFF (160) (D) M W Easterly 6 9 12
2 FORTA ANGESTMAN (ACT (TO) Berry 797	C London Ch 19 B
4 222100- GOME SANNAE (150) DA W Masson 997	3 2-34010 RAMISEY HOFE (46) (C) (D) C Faithurst 4 9 9 J Decoks 18 V
s. enecto. Initial orderands 2000 (Chi Mis A Note 12 9 3) Fortupe 4	4 3150-00 BNRXED (17) (D) Mrs J Ramsten 6 9 8Claire West (8) 8
6 DATANO. THE WARD (240) ICLD Nicholis 4 9 3	5 4050-33 TROPICAL BEACH (7) (D) J Barry 4 9 7 P Residen // M 9]
7 0 MAYOORO 80 M Dods 4 8 13	6 331000 RIVER TERM (176) J M Bedley 4 9 6 J Foreite (5) 4
A 212656 British Carol 2	7 532350 NED'S BORNAZA (178) (D) M (2015 8 9 4 .P Fredericks (5) 2 .)
9 00 SHM062Y (15) J Golde 8 8 11	8 50-3500 SRIG WITH THE BIND EN 43 A MINISTERN 69.3 A Richites 49.14
- 9 declared -	· 9 41406-6 BARRANAK (22) (CD) G McCrust 5 9 2 R Standachee (G) 12
BETTUNG: 2-1 Assolitors, 5-2 Good Savings, 4-1 Palacagate Touch, 7-1	10 0000-61 JOHARRO [3] [0] Golde 4 9 2 (7gd) Meauley 65 1
The Wad, 8-1 Autiliansis, First Maite, 12-1 others	11 B0600-0 RBCH GLOW (8) (D) N Brook (8 9 1 A MeConto (2) 10
	12. 211420 KHLAR (17) (0) D Chapman 8 9 DT Sabbat (5) 16 B
COCKED HAT 'COCK O'THE NORTH'	13 244202- DOMBNELLE (190) (C D) T Exelects 5812 Chieston Berlet (E) 15
3.10 UANTICAD (C) ASS C) \$7325 TVO 1m	14 4000-12 SELK COTTAGE (5) (D) (BF) R Wintake 5 8 12
3.10 COCKED HAT COCK OTHE NORTH	15 020443 DOUBLE OSCUR (56) D Nichols 48 10 Lauren Danies (10) 13
	15 4000-01 MERANTI (9) J Badey 488 (7edVictoria Applicity 11
2 212350- HEN HARRIER (198) J Dunion 9 5	17 560060- GAGAJULU (232) (D) P Bans 4 8 6
3 021-021 UN-OWETWO (5) R Withher 9 4 (6st)Dean McKenns 11.	18 01430-0 SUMSET HARBOUR (21) (D) S Kestional 4 8 3
4 14-0680 CAN'T REMEMBER (2) (D) P Bars 93	Jeany Baston (8) 7
5 5(7)(7)6- PERSON FORD (234) M W 288270 9 3	19 000-304 DISSERTOR (16) J Glover 5 7 12 R Edistant (5) 5 V
6 315/10 POMEN AND 174 (12) (0) 11 Bye 9 8 7 Williams 6	= 19 declared =
8 604-464 QETTHE PORT (12) R Holinshead 8 13	BEJTANG: 7-1, Moranti, 8-1 Kefer, Tropical Beach, 9-1 Silk Cottage, 10-1
R. den alter de la completa del completa del completa de la completa del completa del la completa del compl	Sarato, Dominotic, Johnyro, 12-1 others

BETTRIG: 9-4 Ivory Coester, 4-1 Cherry Dee, 7-1 May Senset. 8-1 Nic Ross, Boston Man, 10-1 Britainie, La Mon Dere, 14-1 others

PONTEFRACT

2.45: 1 YOUNG IBMR UF Egan: 16-1;
2. The Boy John 4-1; 3. Marrena's Boy 5-2
p-lev. 10 zan. 5-2 p-lev Berrardo Bellotto Hith,
shi-nd, 17-4. (P Evans). Tobe: £26.20; £2.60,
£1.30, £1.60. Dusi Forcesst; £61.30. Computer Straight Forcesst: £74.15. Tho: £36.80.
Non Runner: Leather And Sorm.

3.20: 1 DAYVILLE [J Wesser] 10-1; 2.
Song Mist 11-2; 3. Falls O'Moness 12-1.
23 ran. 2-1 tav Bold Gayle. 3, 7-, U Berry).
Tobe: £77.0; £2.60, £2.90, £4.20. Dusi Forcesst: £26.20. CSF: £60.02. Theast: £531.82.
This: £475.20 (part won, a pool of £301.23 is carred forward to the Newmarket 4.05 totay).
3.50: 1. KYLE RHEA (W Ryan) evers tw:
2. Jaunty Jack 2-1; 3. Red Guard 6-1. 10
ran. nk, 9. (H Cecn. Totac £1.90; £1.10,
£1.10, £1.60. DF: £2.40, CSF: £2.84. Inc:

2. Square Mile Miles 20-1; 3. Dictation 10-1; 4. Monis 33-1. 18 ram. 3-1 fav Loch Style, nk, 2½. (R O'Sulfixam). Tota: £14,30; £2,80, £9,70, £2,90, £10,30. Dual Forecast:

RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES DESULTS NEWMARKET STATE 981 982 973 983

2.00 MANTLES PRINCE (nap) 4.05 Treasure Touch 4.35 Diligence 2.30 Shock Value 3.00 Desert Story 5.05 Arpeggio GOING: Good to Firm. STALLS: 2.30 & 3.30 - stands side; rest - far side. GOING: Good to Firm. STALLS: 2-30 & 3-30 - stands side; rest - far side.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Eligid-hand course with 1 in 21 straight.

Course is SW of Lown on A1304. Bus link from Cambridge and Newmarket stations.

ADMISSION: Cub 215 (16 to 25-year-olds 25); Grandstand & Paddock 210 (16 to 25-year-olds 25); Funity Electoruse 25. CAR PARE: Members 21; remainder free.

ILEADENG TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: J Gooden — 41 winners from 258 runners gives a success cattor of 14.2% and a lose to a 51 to 44 state of 573-17; IR Hammon — 39 winners, 457 runners, 54.2%, -2531.06; J Dunlop — 29 winners, 457-17; IR Hammon — 39 winners, 457 runners, 54.2%, -2531.06; J Dunlop — 29 winners, 250 runners, 10.7%, -3103.06; IR HILLS — 38 winners, 251 runners, 11.2%, -4107.28.

ILEADENG JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery — 101 winners, 484 rides; 30.9%, -287.82; L Detoid — 66 winners, 470 rides, 14%, -2173.14; W R Swishawa — 44 winners, 206 rides, 14.4%, +57.17; J Reid — 34 winners, 335 rides, 10.1%, -538.19.

BLINGERED FIRST THIS: None.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Treasure Touch (4.05) won at Nottingham on Friday. LONG-DESTANCE RUNNERS: Heavy The Frend (4.35) & Risky Whisky (5.05) have been send 213 rafles by J Berry from Cockertam, Lancs. 2.00 NGK SPARK PLUGS HANDICAP (CLASS C) E7,500 added 3YO 1m 2f Penalty Value £6,068

| 13036-1 MESTER PRIK (19) (C) (C W Summer) R Johnson Houghton 9 7 | 18nd 19 83 802- METRINI (USA) (1911) Francis A Melecural J Dunico 9 4 | R 18la 18 72 (2421-0 PALAR RIGHT (26) (The Micherton Partreside) M Juneston 9 3 | M Roberta 8 75 10210-2 LONE HIGH ON PRICE (1877) (J 16 V Prancis) W Marr 9 3 | M J Visione 7 85 10210-2 LONE HIGH NO PRICE (1877) (J 16 V Prancis) W Marr 9 3 | M J Visione 8 93 10210-2 LONE HIGH NO PRICE (1877) (J 16) M J Lego 1 Miles 9 1 | Dunico 9 1 | Dunico 078411 14 96 10210-2 LONE HIGH NO PRICE (1877) (J 0 M J Lego 1 Miles 9 1 | Dunico 9 1 | Dunico 078411 14 96 10210-2 COMMENCE GRY (277) (J C Smith) I Belding 8 12 | L Dunico 1 16 94 15 97 002- Generatous GRY (177) (J C Smith) I Belding 8 12 | L Dunico 1 16 94 15 97 002- Generatous GRY (177) (J C Smith) I Belding 8 12 | L Dunico 1 16 94 15 97 002- Generatous GRY (177) (J C Smith) I Belding 8 12 | L Dunico 1 16 94 15 97 002- Generatous GRY (177) (J C Smith) I Belding 8 12 | L Dunico 1 16 94 15 97 002- Generatous GRY (177) (J C Smith) I Belding 8 12 | L Dunico 1 16 94 15 97 002- Generatous GRY (177) (J C Smith) I Belding 8 12 | L Dunico 1 16 94 15 97 002- Generatous GRY (177) (J C Smith) I Belding 8 12 | L Dunico 1 16 97 002- Generatous GRY (177) (J C Smith) I Belding 8 7 | Price 1 16 97 002- Generatous GRY (177) (J C Smith) I Belding 8 7 | Less 8 6 | Proc 1 16 97 002- Generatous GRY (177) (J C Smith) I Belding 8 1 | R Middle (177) 1 10 | Miles 1 16 97 002- Generatous GRY (177) (J C Smith) I Generatous GRY (177) (J C Smith) I September 7 10 | Lone 1 16 98 1002- GRY (177) (J C Smith) I C Smith 7 10 | Lone 1 16 98 1002- GRY (177) (J C Smith) I C Smith 7 10 | Lone 1 16 98 1002- GRY (177) (J C Smith) I Source 8 1 Generatous GRY (177) (J C Smith) I Source 8 1 Generatous GRY (177) (J C Smith) I Source 8 1 Generatous GRY (177) (J C Smith) I Source 8 1 Generatous GRY (177) (J C Smith) I Source 8 1 Generatous GRY (177) (J C Smith) I Source 8 1 Generatous GRY (177) (J C Smith) I Source 8 1 Generatous GRY (177) (J C Smith) I Source 8 1 Generatous GRY

2.30 GREENE KING FELDEN STAKES (CLASS A) (Listed) £16,250 added 3YO 1m 1f Penalty Value £10,193

BETTINE: 9-4 Crimson Tide, 5-2 Barners Sands, 5-1 Shock Value, 6-1 Bold Words, 10-1 Pennana City, Painte, 14-1 Recondition
1998: Storm Trooper 3 8 11 Pet Eddery 2-1 (it Cecili 11 am Proper Guerre
Resument's wen on Tuceday confirmed the well-being of John Hills's houses and Crimsoner
Resument's wen on Tuceday confirmed the well-being of John Hills's houses and Crimsoner
Crimson Tide was critically in numbing when second to Decot at Salabury, but showed the
Crimson Tide was critically in numbing when second to Decot at Salabury, but showed the
money wasn't misplaced here next time when he won cooly from Deneting, the waries this
money wasn't misplaced here next time when he won cooly from Deneting, the waries to be to better class then Barmann Sands. Out of an Dels with
more strop and is taken to be not better class then Barmann Sands. Out of an Dels with
now, Barmann Sands, out of an Dels with
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		CITY INDEX CRA/EN STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 3) £30,000 added 3YO 1m Penaky Value £19,188 £30,000 added 3YO 1m Penaky Value £12	
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8 2:13 SHI-LANG (JSH) Raws seem in a declared—
8 Assertance of the seem of the

could just be found out today. Cape Cross could be anything after a maken win over a mile at Doncaster and the winness of three subsequent races have emerged from that race. Richard Harmoon loves beeting the so-called stars and Pelbara comes here it, and fande other a four-length, win from Groom's Gordon in the Easter Stakes at Kempton, Shill-Take

	3.30	BHS GOLDEN JUBILEE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £8,000 added 3YO 6f Penalty Value £4,503
	1 24	- BINTANG TIMOR (USA) (180) (IRH Suban Ahmad Shari) P Colo 9 0T (palma 11.71 -
		- BLOOD CRANGE (167) (6 G Margason) 6 Margason 9 0
	3 23	CAPTAIN COLUMS (173) (R E Sangaier) P Cheoole-Hyarn 9 () Reid 4 92
		DANEY REGENT (17) (Ron Parsons) C Oper 9 0K Falline 10 76
	5	HYPE, SUPERIOR (Robert Cod) A Balley 9 0Paul Edday 3 —
	6 00	JOHT'S PROMOE (182) (Four Score Resing) C Munity 9 0 X Darley 12 54
	.7 3	MASTERPECE (22) (Lady Terrent) R Hennon 9 0
	:à · · · c	MENNANCKII (19) (Lickers Gence) N 9= 90 M Roberts 2 —
	· 9	SHADOOF DAIS IT LEND W Mar 9 0
	10	SOMET LENDER (Matthews Breeding and Racing) R Guest 9 0
	11 0	- WONDERBOY (190) (Ferrary Ltd) R Abelyant 9 ()
		PAT SND NO (285) (Dosping Limited) D Coagore 8 9 Stack 8 80
		-12 declared -
•	BETTME: 4-	Contain Colles, 11-4 Birtung Timor, 5-1 Magazinaice, 16-1 Mondactor, 16-1 Midway

BETTING: 4-5 Captain Collens, 11-4 managers Call, Shadoof, 20-1 Pat Sald No. 25-1 others 1998: Lionim 3 8 11 J Reid ovens (P Chappie-Hyam) 5 sec FORM GUIDE

CAPTAIN COLLINS is the star act in the race and he may have the class to bounce back from juveralle runs over seven furlongs and a mile to beat Mesterpiece. Odds-on when beaten on his debut at Kempton and then in the soft ground when third to Tempting Prospect at Newbury, this highly-raids son of E farm Senor is a full-betther to it it de Justice, who landed the Breader's Cup Sorint last October. Bistener Times another costs feature on his

)	tended the precions of the South Service and Common Tide over several futings in the first of the Service and Serv					
	4.05	EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS HANDICAP £7,500 added 3YO 8f Penalty Value £6,360	(CLASS C			
1	0113	· YORKE GEORGE (189) (D) (M J Develon) L Cumpol 9 7	R Ffrench (5) 12			
2	2 134	ARRONANI (224) (Hamden Al Meldoum) P Walnyn 94	Ri 19			
3	09151-2	E11日は LAD (2時) だ) (音) (Max Chas, Hamington) R Hannon 9 3	Dane O'Nell 6			
. 4	14	CHERRY BLOSSON (332) (Fightiere Racing Ltd) R Hymnon 9.3	R Flaghes 15			
5	· 16-	ICE AGE (\$15) (Peter Charter) R Williams 9 3	K Dantey 2			
6	424-11	PLAISER D'AMOUR (14) (M Tabor) N Callegren 9 0	Pat Eddary 5			
∵7	-21640-0	PUDE ANNAEDENS (26) (NOIsm HB) C Paintust 8 11	L Dettod 7			
8	6-32111	TREASURE TOUCH (6) (D) (N Horsemen) D Micholic 8 11 (7ed	ne Ythods (7) 10			
9	213200	ASSEAN SOUND (156) (D) (Theobada Sura) H Attany 8 10 REFUSE TO LOSE (15) (D) (RF) (J C Smith) J Eustace 8 9	G Hend 1			
á	D· 51-4	REFUSE TO LOSE (19) (D) (BF) (J C Smith) J Eustace 8 9	_R Cockrana 20			
1	1 10080-5	PAPITA (19) (D) (G Stairteag) S Dow 88				
1	2 332402-	MARSAD (178) (R F Viby) R Abstract 8 8	8 معلمي لاستسب			
1	3 004-0	MIDNOST SHET (2) (C) Mas) R Grest 8 7	Doublisd 14			
		STYLE DANCER (19) (II) (Mrs C A Hodgets) R Whitsher 8 7				
1	5 160-000	A BREEZE (26) (The Mirror Puntos Club) D Monis 86	N Day 16			
1	B 5030-	SALTHERANCO (182) (Normandy Developments) R Alehust 8 4	<u></u>			
1	7 · 50-2	JOHN EMMS (22) (BF) (Richard Green (Fine Partings)) M Bell 8 3				
1	8 4250-	SHORES AND WONDERS (250) (R M Open) C Open ? 12	<u>1</u> 1 هينوا لـــــــ			
. 1	9 <i>5</i> 12152	ENCHANTING EVE (21) (D) (Newmarket Connections) C Allen 7 11	tiin Duyter (3) 1.7			
		BATSMAN (22) (Ex-Recession Partneshp) W Museon 7 10 - 20 declared -	Declar: O'Shee 8			
- A	نجب ويرينون	thi: 7st 10th, Yave handican weight: Batsman 7st 9th.				

Minimum weight: 7st 10th. The heroticap weight: Beistram 7st 5th.

HETTHIR: 6-1. Typecump Touch, 7-1. John Emme, 8-1 Rofume To Lone, Plaisir D'Amour, 6-1. Papills

16-1. Rade Anabenhag, Massed, Eliene Lad, Style Descour, Cherry Bloscour, 12-1. Arreton, Yorki
Georgia, 14-1. Ice Age, Sattlemance, Enchanting Ere, 20-1 others

1990: Geine 3 8 1 S Sanders 8-1 (W O'Georgen) 15 an

ECONAL CHERRY.

Papility has every chance with a run under her belt and with a draw near the favoured for Paylita has every chance with a run under her belt and with a draw near the taxoured far side rat. So impressive when winning at Goodwood on her second juvenie start, she might just poil it off again after a creditable seasonal stoempt at Kempton when a five-length soft to Supercal. She wear't given a hard time when held and she can reverse the form with the third and fourth. Style Denoce and Refuses To Lose. But the threat next the foot of the hexidicap, JOHN EMBIS, gets the nod despite a low draw. John Emms will be flighting fit after a Follastone run, admittedly a disappointing one, when second to Wee Dram. Tree-sure Teach has dotted up in two starts at Nottingham and long Weards bandled him well not week. But this gelding is now in this stronger race. Plainter d'Amour has won twice over seven furiongs this second at Joseph Cold overcome fast ground on both occasions and this well-extered surface will suit, but the furiong-shorter tip sets her a cask. Elliens Lad, a bursery whener here lest backend and bound to come on for his second to Brutal Fentagy at Doncaster.

3 Staffeset (8) (Mrs Caroline Parket) R Harroon & 11. DELICENCE. (The Blue Chip Croup) P Color B 11.
EMPEROR HAMBER (Mrs Ellma Meeting) B Meeting 8 11.
HAMBER THE PROLED (Chic Decincal J Blue) No. 8 11.
HAMBORA BAY (Doeld J Wron) M Tomplins 8 11.

Brisin Meeting has been quiet since the Brocklesby Stakes win with Bluestrige Denteer, and Paul Cole and Barry Hits have their first Juvenile summers of the seeson. DELIGENCE could be the right choice for the Cole yest that won the race lest year with Retcher. The stable has an excellent strike-rets with newcomers and Diligence is a March feel by Dilum, a cracking Juvenile who won the Covertry Stakes and Richmond Stakes. Britis Meetine has booked Pat Eddery for Emperier Maheem, acother March feel by a decest size of Juveniles, Imperied Frontier. If up to the stemchard of Blueridge Danner, he'll go very close. Barry Hith's Opposition Eleader is a later foil so could just be at a disadvartage against the other parand also with Richard Harmon's Blattoned, who has the added boras of a previous run. Heavy Tibe Proad may also need a bit more time, but Michael Bell susually has comething rippy at this time of year and he reports Timekeeper, who has a Queen Mary winner in his family, as forward enough.

5.05 CITY INDEX POLITICAL BETTING STAKES (CLASS C) £6,900 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £4,213 11 SEQUENCE (25) (D) (P D Seid) R Hollenhed 9 4
12 SERRY WHESEY (T) (PA (SP) U Berry) 3 Berry 9 2
ANNIL (USA) Frightiere Thomographic Racing (Ld) 6 Lente 8 9
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SECOND WHITE (David) Serpanil P Cole 8 9
SECOND WHITE (David) Serpanil P Cole 8 9

It was pretty obvious two years ago that some did not take kindly to the progress Woods was making. His cool demeanour upset them

The first time I saw Tiger Woods man to play in the Masters but none live, as against catching glimpses of had shown such potential. What effects the same and locker-room attendants. him on television, was at the 1995 Masters. Making his first appearance at August National, barely 19 years old, invited as the US Amateur champion, he had made a tidy par at the first and was about to play

Already something of a name in golf. Woods had plenty of people rooting for him. Off went the ball on its 300-yard journey and as Woods strode after it a small white a great golf course with the world's boy standing alongside the fairway called out: "Go get 'em, Tiger." This was acknowledged with the smile that is now part of a multi-million

Woods was not the first black

fect, I wondered, would its realisation have on golf's white establishment, because it was pretty obvious two years ago that some did not take kindly to the progress Woods was making. Unquestionably, his cool demeanour upset

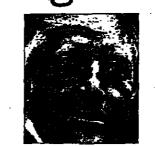
Asked at a news conference what the invitation meant to him. Woods replied: "The opportunity to be on best players." Enough, but not enough for the bystander who muttered: "Just another uppity nigger."

Disgusting but hardly surprising. After all, it is not that long since the only black faces at Augusta Na-

Lee Trevino was made to feel so uncomfortable because of his Mexican blood that he changed in the

As Woods moved closer to coronation last Sunday he thought about the handful of black players vho preceded him in the Masters. "Without them none of this would have been possible," he said. It was exactly the right thing to say if only because his remarkable victory has led, inevitably you may think, to glib assumption.

To suppose that Woods has de-molished social barriers in golf is to be in ignorance of prevailing influences, the irrefutable fact that



there are clubs in the United States and this country where he is not guaranteed a welcome.

The guiding spirits in golf are for the most part conservative people of at least middle age. Liberal in-

many clubs have more than one or two black members? How many black players do you see on the European Tour?

If, as seems likely, Woods goes on to dominate golf things may well change, but nobody should hold their breath in anticipation. After all, black success in sport has not altered the lot of black people generally.

The truth, unfortunately, is that it takes a damn sight more than sporting prowess to break down racial discrimination. Going beyond the civil rights movement as an objective, Muhammad Ali helped to internationalise black consciousness

ed that America's schools are becoming as segregated as they were 40 years ago. What did Carl Lewis's monu-

mental athletic achievements do for the black population of his birth-place, Philadelphia? "He is a credit to his race, the human race," an American sportswriter, the late Jimmy Cannon, said famously about one of the greatest of heavyweight champions, Joe Louis, A fine sentiment and yet said not long before a liberal president, Franklin D Roosevelt, voted against an anti-lynching bill, his eyes on the South-

It was 10 more years, 50 years ago

stincts are not strong in them. So-cial issues come into this but how port issued in the US last week statintelligent man, Robinson was also a hard case who could handle vicious attempts at intimidation. And yet his early death was said to be partly the result of having to deal

with ongoing prejudice. We need to understand that politically correct terminology dates little more than obscure racism. Fame to go with the view that he may well be the greatest of all golfers will not provide Tiger Woods with complete immunity from attempts to discredit him. As for changing the face of golf, it is a marvellous idea into which youth may breathe some life but right now it remains a fantasy.

Boon teaching Durham the Tasmanian way

hese days, siding with the underdog is a dying vocation and about as fashionable as following 10 pints of ale with a red hot vindaloo. Everyone, it seems, likes a winner, which makes it all the more curious why someone as successful as David Boon, the recently retired Ayers Rock of Australian cricket, should want to come and captain Durham County Cricket Chub, a win-free zone for the whole of last season bar a single victory in the Sunday League.

The challenge facing Boon is about as great as it gets, though leading Assam to victory in India's Ranji Trophy would run it

Morale in the North-east is that has suffered numerous indignities, not least the high price to be paid for being on the margin, where over-inflated salaries have been paid to a host of rapidly deflating players: a sit-uation of high investment and zero return that is close to bringing cricket lovers in Tony

Blairland to crisis point. Being a Tasmanian probably helps. Certainly the island triangle that hangs from Australia's underbelly has always had to overcome an inferiority complex where the rest of the country is involved.

Tassie was like six or seven years ago," says Boon, idly fin- Durham's splendid HQ are as gering his diamond earstud as spiteful as they come. he and the rest of Durham's middle order watch the openers give the students of Oxford University the runaround.

[Durham's director of cricket] flew out to have a chat about what had been happening, I really had no hesitation in coming. I saw it as a good challenge as well as something to keep me motivated. Now I'm here I can definitely feel the change of attitude and direction we made **Derek Pringle** meets the new messiah of Chester-le-Street and finds a man well versed in the problems he and his team face over the coming months

back there. Hopefully that ex-

perience can help Durham.
"I like to look at last season in a positive light in that the only way for us to go is up. That begins with attitude and I want us to go out there and feel we can win. Not just to turn up and ex-

He says that Durham al-ready feels like home and that his wife Pip and their three children are all excited by the move. Mind you, one thing Morale in the North-east is not high and Boon must rekin-homely is the square at Chesterdle the enthusiasm of a team le-Street. Unlike Boon's home track at the Bellerive Oval in

> 'The move to appoint Atherton for the whole summer is a positive one, an important signal

Hobart – a batsman-friendly There are a lot of similarities between Durham and what surface the Australian leg-spinner Kerry O'Keefe once called the Autobahn - the pitches at

Short of dousing the fruity wickets with Agent Orange, however, he has been given more or less a free rein to "So when Geoff Cook mould the team to his requirements but admits it will take a little time before he knows the players well enough to realise what his best options are. "As soon as I can remember

all the names, my job is to improve the team's performance between the hours of 11 and six. To do that I hope to create a

good team atmosphere that breeds confident and positive

players. I've only been here a few days, but from what I've seen, everyone is just as keen to do well and try and turn things Like Allan Border, the stol-

id give-no-quarter captain Boon most resembles as a player, a stint in county cricket has always been something he wanted to "No matter how far down a

certain road you've gone, you can always learn more. The experience of coming over here, especially during Ashes tours, was a real bonus and whetted my appetite. To play in different conditions and have to adapt your game to them is one

of the great joys of the game. "I almost played for Gloucestershire, but one of my knees needed a bit of a clean-up after a tour of Pakistan. I also got about two inches from signing es Durham will be hoping rub for Warwickshire in 1994. But off on their inconsistent batsat the last minute Dermot Reeve decided they wanted a bowler to replace Allan Donald. When that fell through they approached me again. By then it was too late so they signed Bri-an Lara, which worked out well for them." The twinkling eyes betraving the ironic humour hid-

den by the deadpan delivery. He feels that county cricket is on the right path now that four-day cricket is the norm. "Before the change it was a bit slapdash and relied on falsely set-up declarations, unlike Shield cricket in Australia, where every day in the 10match season really counts. Now that you've got four days at 110 overs a day, it allows you

to play the game properly. For his country, Boon was immediately had the ears of all "Mr Dependable," a batsman those around him.



David Boon, the new Durham captain, takes a quick break during proceedings at The Parks yesterday

who sold his wicket dear and . off on their inconsistent bats-men. With his junior Merv body else, irrespective of who Hughes moustache, he looks like a polar explorer, though a reputation for a mighty thirst he is reputed to have beaten Rod Marsh's liver wrenching 42can record for beers sunk on the Sydney to London flight means it is more likely to be lager spume on his bristles than

Having scored 7,442 runs in 107 Tests for Australia, Boon, before his retirement last year. had managed to climb the game's Mount Olympus without anyone really noticing. The method and the man are distinctly similar and I remember Allan Border once describing him as a man of few words who. when he did open his mouth,

"In Australia, the dressingthey are or what they've done. iortable when they walk in, and that they belong there. It's you're in an environment where people clearly believe in you." It was not always like that though, and before taking the 1987 World Cup, Australia had not won so much as a chook (chicken) raffle in four years; a situation made worse by having

a dominant England. "I believe talent goes in circles. When I first started England was on top and we were the ones getting our butts kicked. Over a 12-year period that's been turned round and England seem to be where we were in 1985."

lost successive Ashes series to

kept his advice cheap, attribut- room is very much an open fo- beloved "Green Baggy" (Aus- The beauty about him is that he a strike rate as good as War- es Durham will be hoping rub rum. Everybody has as much tralia's distinctive Test cap) has can create pressure as well as ney's," he says with an ever so over men of all ages, Boon be-lieves it was the Aussie selectors and a half runs per over in Test So what does he who broke the mould and laid That way everyone feels com- the foundations for the successes of the last 10 years.

"They decided to pick from much easier to perform when an unofficial squad of about 16 guys and give them as much opportunity as possible over a two-year period. To know that someone was going to stick with you even if you failed gave us all a lot of confidence.

There were other factors and Aussie cricketers of the Eighties were said to suffer from Botham phobia, and when he waned, Australia's prospects waxed. It is a syndrome many feel Shane Warne is about to inflict upon England's batsmen, who have rarely coped well

with high quality leg-spinners.

What advice, if any, does he give the Tasmanian batsmen when they take on Victoria and Warne's tweaking them like a buzzsaw? He pauses, as if to weigh up

whether or not to give anything away to the old enemy, but decides to anyway. "We all know that Shane's a "dry" bowler [an expression that means he bowls very few bad balls]. That means you really have to concentrate, not only to keep him out, but to make sure that when that loose delivery does come, you put the thing away."

Mind you, he feels the pacemen Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie give Australia's attack be where we were in 1985."

"It's possible, but what you've a useful edge. "Glenn's sharp, it'll be a lot closer that However, apart from the ungot to look at is that Warney's he's got good control and will have been predicting."

questioning motivation that the best leggie going around. bowl all day. He's actually got beloved "Green Baggy" (Aus- The beauty about him is that he a strike rate as good as War-

snes nas in store for Michae Atherton's men, now that they are taking on a de-Booned Australian side?

"I thought there were a lot of signs of improvement in New Zealand. Also the move to appoint Atherton for the whole summer is a positive one. It's important to give a team signals like that. When Australia were struggling and rebuilding in the mid-1980's, faith and stability

were important factors. "Of course I'll have to go for our blokes, but if England can go through the summer using a minimal squad, instead of the 30 or so players that have been called up during the previous two Ashes campaigns, I think

First-class matches Yorkshire v Lancashire RKSHIRE - First limings D Mozon b Austin

Stemo b Yates Hossard c Hairies b Martin

Bowling: Kartin 17:2-3-58-2; Green 18-2-71-0; Austin 14-3-70-2; Yotes 14-2-46-4; Astemson 17-3-38-2. LANCASHIRE - First hadings S P Tischard c Kertleborough b Hamilton.

Total (for 1, 12.1 overs)... Fall: 1-32. To bat: A Filintoff, N.H. Fairbrother, G.D. Lloyd, 153 Matterson, 1 D. Austen, G. Yarres, R.J. Green, P.J. Naston.
Bowling (to date): Hamilton 6.1-1-23-1;
Which the Color Hoppard 2-0-15-0.
Umphres: K.E. Palmer and R.A. White.

second day of three? Cambridge Univ v Derbyshire FEMBER'S: Cambridge University, with four second-immings wickets standing, are 64 runs behind Derbyshire. Today: 11.0. Cambridge University won toss

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY — First Innings 195 E T Smith 85). 3 S Ro⊮ns run out C J Adams c Smith b Reeth . N Hayburst flow b P tones N P Carle the b Freeth

N I Vandrau c Dawson b R Jones

K Xi Kraken not out

P A J Defretas c How b Freeth

G V Roberts not out

Extres 1023 1012 98

Bowling: P S Jones 27:3-76-1; How 11-1-43-0; Dawson 17-0-55-0; Freeth 22-1-101-4; House 5-1-13-0; R O Jones 14-3-39-1.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

TO R H Churton not out Fail: 1-39 2-44 3-59 4-74 5-74 6-74 To batt: PS Jones, JW O Freeth, EJ How, Sewling (to date): Malcolm 8-2-38-1; De-Freitas 8-4-21-2; Clarke 6-1-20-0; Dean 6-0-24-3; Vandrau 1-1-0-0.

Oxford Univ v Durbans THE PARKS: Oxford University, with nine second-imings wickets standing, require 343 runs to best Durham. Today: 11.0. Durham won toss

Fell (cont): 7-36 8-116 9-143. Bowling: Brown 15-5-33-2; Betts 17.3-5-51-B; Nileon 7-1-20-1; Boiling 11-3-28-0; Cox 8-4-12-1

DURHAM - Second Insings
J E Monts e Laughton b Mother
N J Speak low b Patel
D C Boon e Scrini b Mather
TM P Speight not out
M M Betts not out
Entres (v/2 nb/2) Felt: 1-24 2-71 3-122. Did not bat: J J & Lewis, P D Collingwood. J Bolking, D M Cox, N Killeen, S J E Brown.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY - Second lunings R D Hudson law b Brown -------

Wood brings colour to grey day Two-year Aamir ban' JON CULLEY

reports from Headingley Yorkshire 289 v Lancashire

The sun went in more or less as the players took the field here yesterday, which Yorkshire will hope is not an omen after last season's ultimately unrewarded promise. In fact, the day's subsequent greyness was in keep-ing with the low key nature of the cricket in a fixture that illustrates how attempts to manufacture a competitive at-

mosphere seldom work. Opening the season with a Roses friendly probably seemed a good idea at the time, when

a change in the Championship programme limited the traditional rivals to one confrontation per year. But if Lancastrian and Yorkists ever craved a contest with nothing at stake there was little evidence yesterday, when spectators paying at the gate numbered 135.

It has the look of a second XI match, which cannot have helped. Many of the bigger names are absent, either because they are injured, engaged at Edgbaston or attending an Eng-land squad session. And mid-April, these days, is too early for overseas players to be involved.

An opportunity, then, for the understudies, among them Matthew Wood, a 20-year-old right-hand batsman from Emley, with the captain, David Byas.

the chestnut Dance and Fly.

must have lost at least that when

her horse became upset by the

clanking of a tractor and trail-

er at the end of the arena. This

was her first show in England on

At 20, Bigwood is still eligi-ble for the Young Riders team,

but it is quite possible that she

will be selected for the senior

squad for this year's European Championships

before she acquired him.

who marked his first-class debut by scoring 81 before an inswinging delivery from Peter Martin had him low shortly after lunch.

Wood, who has represented England at Under-17 and Under-19 level, is another product of the Yorkshire Academy. He earned his place after making a century on the county's preseason tour of the West Indies.

With the former England opener Martyn Moson offering guidance after Mike Watkinson won the toss and chose to field, Wood looked comfortable from the outset. Moxon was bowled by Ian Austin, after which Wood survived a sharp chance to gully off Austin on 23 but dominated a third-wicket stand of 77

The other opportunist was Bradley Parker, squeezed out by the Australian Michael Bevan, last season. Yorkshire expect to know today whether another Australian, Michael Slater, will replace Bevan this year. In the meantime, Parker caught the eye

with a forceful unbeaten 85. On an easy-paced pitch, Watkinson was the most penetrative bowler before lunch, af-ter which no one did more damage than the off-spinner, Gary Yates, another who has to make do with meagre rations, largely because of Watkinson's versatility. Yates' four wickets included that of Gareth Batty - 19-year-old brother of Jeremy - whose debut, in contrast to Woods', lasted one ball.

The Pakistan opener Aamir Sohail, who has played in 34 Tests, was banned from inmatches for two years by the Pakistan Cricket Board yester-

day.
The PCB disciplinary committee chairman, Talat Ali Malik, said Aamir was guilty of violating its code of conduct by levelling "baseless charges of match-fixing and betting" against some national team members.

"We gave him enough time to provide solid proof but he was not willing to co-operate," Malik added. Aamir described it as an "act of victimisation. It was expected. It is aimed to ruin my career. But I am not worried in the next 60 days.

Mark Taylor is set to retain the Australian captaincy for ternational and domestic this summer's Ashes tour, despite his continued poor form with the bat. He was told yesterday by the Australian Cricket Board that his position is safe. The rest of the Australian squad

will be announced today.
Ashley Giles, Warwickshire's left-arm spinner, and the Yorkshire all-rounder Craig White have withdrawn from the England A versus The Rest game starting at Edgbaston tontorn w. Giles suffered a recurrence of a knee injury and is replaced in the A side by Peter Such of Essex: White has a shoulder injury and his place in the Rest is taken by at all." Annir can appeal with- Ben Hollioake, younger broth-

A close call for Dr B

Equestrianism **GENEVIEVE MURPHY** reports from Ardingly

Dr Wilfreid Bechtolsheimer, who was second reserve for the British Olympic dressage team last year, gained a narrow Grand

Prix victory here yesterday on his new mount, Metternich. This was the third Grand Prix test that Dr B (as he is known) has ridden on the 12-year-old stallion whom he bought in Germany at the end of January. Though talented, he was lucky to defeat Fiona Bigwood and

Rugby League The winning margin was a DAVE HADFIELD mere 0.03 per cent and Bigwood

The First Division leaders, Hull, have continued their teamstrengthening by signing Jason Laurence from Salford and Dance and Fly, who had won nine Grands Prix in Germany Paul Crook from Oldham.

Laurence, an Australian fullback who has played for Not-tingham. Huddersfield and York, has been released by Salford following the club record signing of Gary Broadbent and has joined Hull on a free transfer.

Hull's double dealing pearances for Oldham last season, cost £10,000.

The former Hull loose forward Dean Busby has been Andrew Richardson's impres-transfer-listed by St Helens at sive run of results came to an signing in August 1985, but has been hampered by injury over the past year. John Joyner, who recently re-

signed as coach at Castleford, is being linked with the vacant job at Featherstone Rovers. David Ward stepped down as Featherstone coach at the weekend and the club say that Crook, a utility player who it could be two weeks before a made 13 Super League ap- new appointment is made.

Richardson's run ends

£75,000. Busby was an £80,000 end in Tokyo yesterday when he was beaten in the second round of the Japan Open by Switzer-

land's Marc Rosset. The 23-year-old left-hander from Lincolnshire, who was forced to win two qualifying matches to enter the main draw, put up a brave fight against the former Olympic champion.

Richardson fought back after losing the first set on a tic-break. but it was Rosset who booked

a third-round place with a 7-6, 2-6, 6-2 victory.

Richardson, who was Great Britain's success in the Davis Cup defeat by Zimbabwe, reached his highest world ranking of 262 earlier this week, and

could now go into the top 250.

The Wimbledon champion and No 1 seed, Richard Krajicek, beat South African Neville Godwin in straight sets. Rising Romanian player Irina Spirlea and former winners, Brenda Schultz-McCarthy and Lori McNeil, head the early entries for the DFS Classic in Birmingham from 9 to 15 June.

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Argentinian consolation for the Lions discards

CHRIS HEWETT

Rather like Barry John in his clusive heyday. England's finest will be travelling in two directions simultaneously this summer. Full-scale international commitments in South Africa and Argentina are certain to stretch England's enviable strength in depth to breaking point and give Jack Rowell some idea of the precise balance

between quality and quantity. If anything, England's two-

Test visit to Argentina will be is none too testing an exercise to even less of a tea party than the Lions' tour of South Africa. Perhaps it was just as well that, in stark contrast to the Lions' squad announcement a fortnight ago, there was no sign of the Mad Hatter theory of selection when Rowell named his squad at Twickenham yesterday.

At least four of those bound for South America - Adedayo Adebayo, Mike Catt, Kyran Bracken and Phil Greening should have been booked on the first flight to Johannesburg find additional names for British rugby's misplaced persons file. Ben Clarke and Darren Garforth spring immediately to mind.

That, though, is a problem for the Lions, not England. Rowell's 29-strong party looks well capable of emulating their predecessors of 1990, who also travelled with 14 uncapped players, by claiming a share of the series.

Extreme pace out wide is at a premium - what's new? - but Adebayo, Jon Sleightholme and ishers. Given the running potential of Jim Mallinder and Mark Mapletoft from full-back, the degree of Test know-how at half-back and the serious clout in evidence up front, they can expect their fair share of scorng opportunities.

The sudden promotion of Rees, a 22-year-old Londoner who packs a motorway's worth of grit into an almost laughably scule 5ft 9in frame, underlines Sale's emergence as a genuine power in the land. The Pilkington Cup finalists supply a bright and bouncy quartet and should have contributed a fifth in Dave Baldwin, criminally unfortunate to be denied one of the

four second row places. The schedule includes demanding warm-up games with Cordoba, Buenos Aires and Argentina A, topped off with an "in-teresting" midweek examination from Cuyo in Mendoza between the Tests. "It's a big challenge," admitted the coach . "The Argentinians are very strong scrummaging is a way of life for them - and while I think we'll have a useful pack, the question

will be whether the front row can stand the pressure.

In fact, Rowell holds a stronger hand in that department than he acknowledged yesterday. If their performance for Bath against Leicester last weekend was anything to go by, Kevin Yates and John Mallett are wellequipped to ride roughshod across he length and breadth of the pampas. Garforth, the Tigers' tight-head, is no slouch either and thanks to the rapid development shown by Richard Cockerill, there will be a mean-

to be endured on account of the locks, either. Martin Bayfield's recovery from a career-threatening pelvic injury should guarantee line-out possession, and with Martin Haag back in his pomp at Bath, the engine room just might have a touch of the

Ford Cosworths about it. The weak link appears to be at open-side flanker, owing to the fact that this squad does not possess one. "We were looking forward to having Neil Back along on tour but he was abducted by the Lions," said Rowell with a

There are no sleepless nights smile. He will be laughing on the other side of his face if breakaways like Rolando Martin abduct all the loose ball when the chips are down in Buenes Aires.

Scotland, meanwhile, dropped a kilt-full of bombshells when they named a 30-strong party for the summer trip to South Africa and Zimbabwe, Andy Nicol, the Bath scrum-half, takes over the captainey from the Lions-bound Rob Wainwright and the resulting squeeze on the No 9 shirt means there is no place for Bryan Redpath, a Five Nations

Gascoigne stays in the shadows

Football

WYN GRIFFITHS

Paul Gascoigne's 20-minute cameo in Rangers' 6-0 demolition of Raith Rovers on Tuesday night is unlikely to earn him a more prominent role for England when they face Georgia at

Wembley in two weeks' time. Unless the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, is prepared to gamble on the 29-year-old's fitness, Gascoigne will have to wait for the 31 May trip to Poland

for a possible England return. The Rangers midfielder's comeback af Stark's Park was

Paul McGrath's distinguished international career could finally

be over after he was yesterday

left out of the Republic of Ire-

land's squad for the vital Group

Eight World Cup qualifying the against Romania in Bucharest

won the last of his 83 caps in the nals.

scoreless draw with Wales in

"I have spoken to Paul sev-

eral times this week and he

ugrees with the decision as he

"Paul can play in one game

is still suffering with injuries,"

long term he wants to clear up

these injuries. The more games

Paul misses, the less chance he

has of playing," McCarthy said.

was withdrawn from the Irish

squad in controversial circum-

stances just half an hour before

the team flew to Skopje for the

3-2 defeat by Macedonia. An

Achilles tendon injury was the

Quinn, just back from a cruci-

ate ligament injury, was not named in the squad which will

be reduced to 20 before travel-

ling to Romania. But McCarthy

has indicated that there could

he a late call for Quinn if he

shows full match fitness in forth-

Meanwhile there is a first call-

up for the 17-year-old Everton

defender Richard Dunne and

recalls for Gary Kelly (Leeds), Curtis Fleming (Middles-brough), David Savage (Mill-

wall) and David Connolly

With both Jason McAteer

(Liverpool) and Alan

McLoughlin (Portsmouth) serv-

ing suspensions, McCarthy has

The Sunderland striker Niall

official explanation.

coming club games.

Earlier this month McGrath

Cardiff in February.

McCarthy said.

23 10 231

ROB McLEAN

McGrath out

his first competitive game since 25 January and coincided with 2 victory that virtually ensures a ninth successive title for

Walter Smith's side. However, Dundee United's Scottish Cup commitment has denied Gascoigne the chance of a full game next week to try to show Hoddle he could have been ready for the World Cup qualifier on 30 April.

Rangers were scheduled to visit United next Wednesday but the match is postponed, with Dundee United meeting Kilmarnock in a Scottish Cup

Republic leave

Houghton. "It was an inept

A one-match suspension

Kennedy for the Republic of

not apply to World Cup games.

Tottenham's Stephen Carr be-

youngsters attempt to build on

their 4-0 victory over Macedo-

nia earlier this month.

McCarthy added.

on 29 April.

on the Georgia game, Gas-coigne could play in the three final Premier Division matches for Rangers in May to prove his fitness for the trip to Poland. Raith, meanwhile, who were

an ankle injury.

"I gave him a taste of play-

for the Motherwell game."

relegated to the First Division of the Bell's Scottish League following Tuesday night's hum-bling, are believed to be the target of £250,000 takeover by their former manager, Jimmy recalled the 35-year-old Crystal Palace midfielder Ray Nicholl, who rejected an of-

performance against Macedoma. Even a point against the Romanians would be welcome," fer from the chairman, Alex Penman, on Monday to become caretaker manager for the rest of the season, is expected With Romania top of the to return in the summer as mantable after five games and five wins with 19 goals scored and ager of the club he led to the none conceded, it promises to Coca-Cola Cup in 1994 and the Uefa Cap. "It is a bit early to However, Mick McCarthy, ... be an upbill task for the Irish to ning about this if this is the end for the 37-year in the hope of qualifying for a old Derby defender. McGrath third successive World Cup fi-Nicholl said yesterday.

Brian McClair admitted be was flattered at the crowd of almost 44,000 which turned up for rules out Liverpool's Mark his testimonial against Celtic at Old Trafford last night.

"I had a bet with Brian Kidd Ireland's European Under-21 and it's cost me £30," said Mc-Championship qualifying tie against Romania in Bucharest Clair, who is celebrating his 11th season with United after join-But the ban has not preventing from the Glasgow side in 7 and miss the next one. In the ed Kennedy being elevated to £850,000 in 1987. the senior squad for the follow-

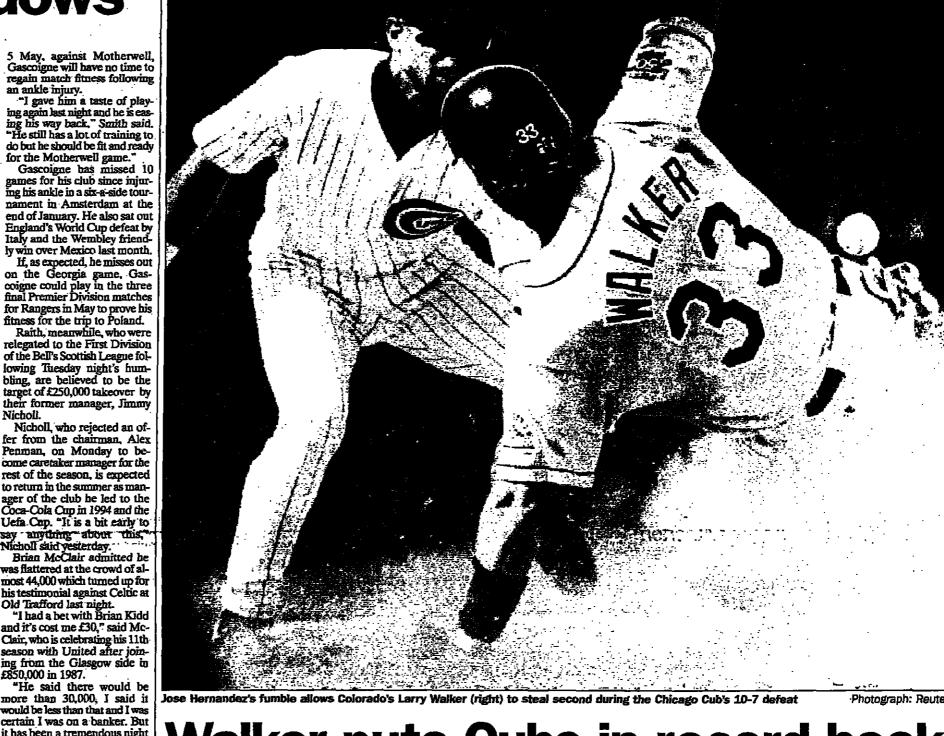
"He said there would be ing day's World Cup tie as sus-pension at Under-21 level does more than 30,000, I said it would be less than that and I was certain I was on a banker. But lan Évans, the Under-21 it has been a tremendous night manager, will also be without and I am very flattered so many people travelled such a long way to be there. When over 40,000 cause of suspension as the Irish people turn up for you, I am touched beyond words. I am delighted. It was very emotional.

The debutants in the squad are The manager capped the Neale Fenn (Tottenham), Owen night when he told everyone Coll (Bournemouth), Peter Gain that I am going to be there next (Tottenham), Shaun Carey (Norseason. I don't know in what role, though. Perhaps I'll get my wich) and Tony McDonnell of UCD, the only League of Ireland chamois ready to wash all the UCD, the only League of Ireland representative.

REPHREIG OF IRELAND SQUAD IV Romanie, Group Eight World Cup qualifying the in Bucharest, 30 Acquit; A Kelly (Sheff 11th), 6th-en (Stectburn), Irvin (Men 11th), Cantingham (Nimbledon), Brean (Caretty Cip.), Haenan (Blechburn), 6 Relly (Leeth 11th), Phalm (Denton Louin), 6 Relly (Leeth 11th), Phalm (Beston), Louine (Everton), Statemen (Men 11th), Houghton (Crystal Palaca), Keston (Men 11th), Houghton (Aston Villa), Swange (Miller), Moore (Medicinativa), 18th, Swange (Miller), Moore (Medicinativa), Consolly (Medicin), O'New (Nancy), Goodman (Millerdox), Cascarleo (Mancy), Goodman (Millerdox), Cascarleo (Mancy). cars!"

The crowd bettered previous testimonials against Celtic for Bryan Robson, Mark Hughes and Lou Macari, and McClair said that is why he had the wager with Kidd because he did not think he would get anywhere near the 40.000 mark.

"It was a great night but it was never going to be about mon-ey," McClair said. "We tried to keep down the price as low as we could so people could come. Hopefully they had satisfac-tion and value for money."



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Walker puts Cubs in record book

As the sport remembered Jackie Robinson on the 50th anniversary of the day he broke the major league colour barrier with the Brooklyn Dodgers, the Chicago Cubs were trying to forget their own unfortunate entry in the record books on

Tuesday. Larry Walker was the inspi ration for Colorado Rockies when he contributed two home runs and four RBI to lead his side to a 10-7 victory over Chicago, securing the Cubs' place in history for the worst opening performance in modern National League history with 11 consecutive defeats. The Cubs are still 10 defeats

shy of the major league mark for

the worst start to a season of 21

of the American League, in 1988. "I'm confident we're going to turn this around," Jim Riggleman, the Cubs manager, said. Mark Thompson, the Col-

losses set by Baltimore Orioles.

orado pitcher, raised his record to 3-0, despite allowing six runs and eight hits. He also added his first career homer - a solo shot in a three-run fifth inning that boosted Colorado's lead to 9-5. Walker's second four-hit

game of the season raised his batting average to a leading .522. He also leads the majors with nine home runs and 22 RBL "This is certainly the best start I've ever had in my career." Walker said.

In New York, Armando Reynoso pitched five scoreless innings and Lance Johnson added four RBI as the Mets broke a four-game losing streak with a 5-0 victory over the Los career shut-out, while Jeff out RBI single capped a four-Angeles Dodgers. Toby Borland Blauser tripled home a run in run sixth inning as the San Angeles Dodgers. Toby Borland pitched the final four innings for his first save as the Mets gained their first shut-out of the season.

The game was halted after the fifth inning as baseball paid tribute to Robinson. In the major league park closest to the former Ebbets Field, where Robinson led Brooklyn to six pennants in 10 years, President Bill Clinton and Robinson's widow, Rachel, took part in a ceremony at second base the position Robinson played

for most of his career. Bud Selig, the acting commisson's uniform number. No 42. would be retired throughout the major leagues.

In an unprecedented move, sioner, announced that Robin-

In Atlanta, John Smoltz pitched a six-hitter for his 10th

the second and Rvan Klesko had a run-scoring triple in the third and scored on an infield hit by Chipper Jones as the Braves beat the Cincinnati Reds 4-0. Smoltz walked two and struck out seven as he outplayed his former team-mate three defeats. Kent Mercker to hand Atlanta their fourth consecutive win.

their 10th victory in 11 games. In Florida, Brady Raggio allowed two runs and five hits over 51/2 innings to win his major league debut as the St Louis Cardinals moved to a 9-3 victory over the Marlins. St Louis have now won of four of the last six matches after starting the season with six straight defeats. Jeff Kent continued his run

of hits with a homer and three

RBI and Marvin Benard's two-

Francisco Giants rallied for an 8-4 win in Philadelphia over the

Mark Lewis contributed two runs and J T Snow added a tworun single for San Francisco. who have nine victories against

The Pittsburgh Pirates stole a 3-2 home victory over the San Diego Padres when Sterling Hitchcock hit Tony Womack with a pitch at the end of the ninth inning to force home Jose Guillen for the winning

In Houston, Pedro Martinez returned from an eight-game suspension to pitch six strong innings and Henry Rodriguez hit Montreal Expos to a 7-5 win over the Astros.

Baseball

(Wauford).

·year At

rdson's

MEROCHAL LEAGUE: Dorrot 3 Militariano 1: Millo 7 Daldand 2; Scenic 8 Cleveland 4: Bai-ngré 3 Millandesta 1: Kunsas Cty 7 Toronto 5: Millan 6 Nate York Yankesa 5; Tedas 5 Chica-Ingilization 6 Natio York Yamesoa Di Chiongo Cuba jo White Sox 2 MAYTHINAL LEAGUE: Colorado 10 Chiongo Cuba 7: St. Louis 9 Florida 3; San Francisco 8 Ribdolethos 4; Persburgi 3 San Diego 2; Adjunta 3 Ciccinote O; Montenal 7 Housston 5; New York

Evric Gray, Olympiakos's American guard, has tested positive for the barined substance ephedrine and will

TODAY'S NUMBER-

The shift number of Jackie Robinson. To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the base-hall player's breaking of the blour barrier, the number has een retired from all major 2s can stay that way for the st of their careers, but no au shirts will be issued with hat number.

probably miss Europe's Final Four championship next week. If he is still positive in a second test, he faces a three-month ben by Fiba, the sport's international federation. NBA: Atlanta 109 New Jessey 101; Utah 127 Proces 122: Houston 123 1A Cappes 119; Ma-vesukee 92 Teronto 92; Seetile 118 San Anno-

(Norwich), Goodman (Winneddol), Cascarino (Narcy).
REPUBLIC OF RELAND SQUAD by Romania in the European Under-21 Coursiponatio qualifying to in Buchanest, 29 April; Marphy (Winneddon), O'Consor (Huddersfield), Worrall (Bischum), Quien (Dysta) Palecti, Mahbar (It-inorham), Finnam (Notic County), Boland (Downty), Fernally (Mean Villa), (Mishae (Presion), Fenna (Foterham), Folay (Wokes), Delap (Carlisle), Mahon (Intrimiere), Isasan (Petersonough), Coli (Bournemouth), McDonnell (UCD), Sain (Totterham), Casey (Norwich).

Boxing Steve Robinson, the World Boxing Or-ganisation intercontinental feather-weight champion, will defend his title weight champion, will owend his title against 21-year-old Julio Sanchez Leon, of Mexico, et Mansfeld on 8 Mey. Robinson won his present title by beating forms Santon in the first round at Brent-

Laurent Jalabert, of France, yesterday won the Flèche Weltonne race, in Huy, Belgium, for the second time in three ers. Jalabert, who rides for the Spanyears, jassurd, who need to be 1.8 sec-ish Once team, crossed the the 1.8 sec-onds ahsed of Luc Lebland, the former world champion, Alex Zülle, Jalabart's Swiss team-mête, edged out six other riders to take third place.

The Embassy World Professional Champonships will have record-breaking prize money of £166,000 next year, with the incentive of an extra £52,000 for any player schlaving a pine-dart finish. The tournament, the richest and more mentions in the same will assin most prestigious in the game, will again be held at the Lakeside Country Club in Frankey Green from 3-11-lanuary.

Equestrianism Equestrianson
Provide Ladue Dressage (Ardingly, Segpeach Carlog Notal Grand Pric. 1 Memoriah (Dr
W Bermolanson) 63-35 per cent 2 Demon and
Py (F. Bigwood) 63-40; 3 Divideo (K. Mephany)
62-93, Intermediales I: 1 Veax (W. Chambon)
53-59; 2 Metter (J. Bickey) 63-33; 3 Forde II (S.
Wetsaga (63-21, Intermediales II: 1 Calendo (P.
Hutton) 63-21, Intermediales II: 1 Calendo (P.
Hutton) 63-22, Linchys (P. Storn) 63-05; 3 Anregistate (M. Associane) 62-11.

POCKEDEN

RA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Re-syranged Su-tures: Thur 24 Apr. Totachten v Michestrough.
Wed 7 Mays: Lockester v Shoffseld Wachestrig.
Thur 5 Mays: Blackburn v Michestrough: Mon-chester Util v Neucastile.

BUL'S SCOTTISH LEGAUE Premier Divisions:
Re-syranged fluores: San 4 May; Fibernien v Cette. Mon 5 Mays: Renger v Micharted. Wed 7 May: Cotto v Klimamook; Dundee Util v Rangers.

LITTLEWOODS: Trable chance 22pts £170,847.35, 21 £702.10, 20 £31.70, 19 £9.75. Ref-time: 20pts £683.40. Four draws £195.70, 10 homes £1.85. Fays #May £75.80. 2.550. (G. Au Romans 11.00. Fay Marge 175.00. ZETTERRE Trebite Chancer 25pts 278.785.00. 22 £497.30. 21 £31.80. 20 £2.10. 4 Desire £20.60. 8 Money and tree Rule 100.) 4 Avangs £7.00. Super 7 £298.60. Lucky Notabers 37 9 27 3 2 1. 9 27 3 2 1.

RRITTENS: Traisic Channet: 23pts £1,022.25;
22 (56.56; 21,57.75). Four draws: \$41.05. Five strains: \$41.05. Five strains: \$61.00.

VERMINS: Traisic Channet: 22pts £67,694.60.
21 £264.50, 20 £38.06. Super Shots £2.35 (paid on two cynery). Franker 10 £56.20.

RANYING CATALIRYA RALLY (Lloret de Mar) Finel posi-tione (enter 18 stagles): 1 7 Matemen (Fini Met-subishi 44r 8 min 48sec; 2 P Leon In) Subani 4:03653; 3 6 Pentus IP) Peugent 4:1156: 4 C Merces (ES) Subaru 4:12-20: 5 A Medegiaru (n Subant 4:1251: 8 R Madess (Pr) Subaru 4:15:12: 7 J Arysins (SQ) Peugent 4:16-28: 8 U Meris (Es) Metulatini 4:17:25: 9 R Spenter (Fin Bernald 4:18:32; 10 C Sainz (Sp) Ford 4:18:43.

SPORTING DIGEST World drivers' championship standings (offer five councie): 1 Malainen 28pcs; 2 Letti 20; 3 Colm McRoe 16; 4 Sanz 12; 5 A Schwez (Ger) Ford 11; 8 K Friszen (Swe) Suberu 10; 7 = R Burne (SB) Metubesh 6, Lok (Ben Topota 6; 9 + 1 Dungan (Keru Topota 6; 4, Penzu 4, Manufecturers' championship standings: 1 Suberu 42; 2 Masubesh 36; 3 Ford 73.

> Rugby League Bramley have signed the twins Anthony and David Globons from Leeds Rhi-Halifax are negotiating with their Eng-land international hooker, Paul Rowley, in the hopes of keeping him at Thum Hall. Rowley is the subject of mal bids from Wilgan and Warnington, but Hali-fax said yesterday that they wished to retain his services.

> Rugfly Union
> Declaro SQUAD (Tour of Argentina, 20 MayBanck Books J Mallander (Saie), M Maphetoti
> (Gloucester), A Adebayro (Borb), I Skelphtohma
> (Both), D Ress (Saie), M Alea (Northermont),
> J Buscontari (Seie), P De Glentille (Both, cay),
> M Granschock (Maspa), M Cart (Sait), A Ning
> (Maspa), K Breeken (Someons), A Gomeradd
> (Maspa), Forwards: J Mallatt (Bath), K Yates
> (Bath), P Sartorth (Leo.), P Hardetok (Country), R Caniserii I Leocotor), P Devising (Counttry), R Caniserii I Leocotor), P Devising (CountCountry), I Restrict (Country), R Caniserii (Soth),
> S Catrick Rotherondo, M Canry (Bristol), A
> Digrosto (Saraotra), R Lesidine (Fartequins), S
> Ojomach (Sait), C Sharestry (Maspa), One phyer to be edited).
> SOUTLAND SQUAD (Four of South Africa, er to be added.
> SCOTLAND SQUAD. (Four of Sooth Africa, Lunaflagh; A D Mool (Berls, capt), S J Brests-erstone (Metrons), G C Bulloch (West of Soot-land), G G Bernes (Westoniart), S J Campbell (Metrons), C M Chelmeter, Metrons, B R G Elle-

landi, G & Barna (Wattonians), S J Campbell Meltonia, C M Chaimstan Meltonia, B R 5 Dris-son (London Scottorin, H R Glimeur (Hespita PP), Brathary (Newscatio), S B Gymne (Wattoni-ans), D I W Hillen (Bath), D W Hodge (Watton-landon Scottish), G A Johan (Hacoster), D I Line (London Scottish), G A Johan (Hacoster), D I Line (London Scottish), K M Logist (Watton), Longister (Durdon High School FP), A I Lack-

ing (Curriet, C & Matther (Watsonspis), M J M Mayer (Watsonan's), G A Mouray (Hasack), S Mar-ray (Bection), S A Nicolo (Metrose), E W Peters Batth, R J S Shephard (Metrose), I R Smith Indepoty), B D Stowner (Edmourgh Academicals), M J Stewart (Mortempor), P Wallon (Mexicosto).

Table tennis The England women's team beat Australia 4-2 in yesterday's semi-final and will face Singapore, the favourities, in today's final at the Commonweath Championships in Glasgow. England's men are also through to today's final and will take on India.
COMMONWEATH CHARPHONSPAPS (Glasgow) Mea: Group F: Northern Ireland 4 Stopsom 1. Group & Stodard 4 South Refer 1: Water 4 Majorius 0. Womiter Third stagic Water 4 Scotland 1. Seriel-Marker Tribul datagic Water 4 Scotland 1. Seriel-Marker 1 Scotland 1

Tennis

JAPAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHEPS (Tolgo) Men's stegles, second recent: R Koujokk (Neuri) by N Godwn (SA) 6-36-4 M Norman Iswe) bt J Genhelesch (LIS) 6-4 6-5. J Tarseng (LIS) by F Fereiren (Den) 7-56-1 J Tarseng (LIS) by F Fereiren (S-3 6-3; P Refor (Aus) bt E Ran (Kr) 6-0-6-1; J Isreng (LIS) by T Suzuk (Lipan) 6-5-1; Jarseng (LIS) by T Suzuk (Lipan) 6-5-1; M Residen (Saro) by D Nestor (Centen) 6-4-6-1; S Messuche (Lipan) by D Mestor (Centen) 6-4-6-1; M Woodforde (Julio) by M Sinner (Centen) 6-6-4; M Resert (Saro) by A Rechestion (LIS) 7-8-2-6-2; M Darrum (CE Rep) to D Debate (Fr) 7-5-4-6-6-2; M Darrum (CE Rep) to D Debate (Fr) 7-5-4-6-6-2; M Darrum (CE Rep) to D Debate (Fr) 7-5-4-6-6-1; Nous (Fr) by J P Flourean (Fr) 7-5-4-5-6-1; Nous (Fr) by J P Flourean (Fr) 7-5-6-4; M Resert (Lipan) 6-4-6-3; C Metanu (LIS) by Y Yoshi C Lipan) 6-4-6-4; N Po (LIS) by J Mestor (LIS) 6-2-5; Manag Sh-trag (Tab) by N Metando (LIS) 6-2-6-4; N Po (LIS) by J Herando (LIS) 6-2-6-4.

BARCELONA OPEN Men's singles, second round: C Protine (fr) bt M Filippini (fingl 6-2 6-4; C Moya (Sp) bt F Clavet (Sp) 6-4 6-4; H Aran (Mar) II, J Atmos (Sp) 8-3 4-6-3; F Vorenni (Sp) bt J Burlio (Sp) 8-4 6-2; C Rutal (Mar) at D Johnson (US) 6-4 7-8; F Marshes (Sp) 15 F Ros (Sp) 6-4 6-0; A Bensatagu (Sp) bt R Fromberg Utus) 6-4 6-3; F Meligen (Br) bt G Schafer (Aut) 7-5 6-2; A Mediuster (Mar) 12 f Color (Sp) 6-2 6-0 M Goreline (Gent is G Loper (Sp) 6-7 6-4 7-6; A Cospan (Sp) 13 4 Vincas (Sp) 6-4 6-3; A Portas (Sp) bt M Ros (Cale) 7-5 7-6; M Lanson (Swe) bt Ye Kalelmice (Rut) 3-6 8-2 6-3.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

7,30 undess stated WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Furness : Folkestone Inacta (6.0). UMISOND LEAGUE Pirst Division: Ashton Utg. v Gretra (7.45). URBET SUSSEX COUNTY LEARNE First Divi-giage Calescop v Satplean (7.45); Shorehem v Wick (7.45).

VICA (7.43).

PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Botton v
Leerpool (7.0). First Division: Leioester v Aston Villa (7.0). Second Division: Marqued v
Burnley (7.0): Succiport v Rotherham (6.45);
Grirnsby v Marchester (6.47,0), League Cup
seral-final: Stole v Walsal (7.0). FA YOUTH CUP Sersi-Boal second leg: Black-burn Rovers (1) y Crystal Palace (2),

SpeedWay ELITE LEAGUE: Ipswich v Wolverhampto (7.30). PREMIER LEAGUE Knock-Out Cup: Shaffield

FOOTBALL RESULTS

Yesterday

TUESCAY

NATIONARDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE First Division Barrisly 2 (Hordre 44, Marcelle 59) Ou-ham C: Bernergam O Totomete C: Cystal Palace 2 (Deer 6, 21) Stole O. Second Divscort Black-pool O Lutin O: Brentiord 1 (Natha 23) Chesteried O: Bristol City 2 (Bernert per 30, Gourn 88) Witesham 1 (Morra 71); Bury 1 (Despon 4) Crase C: Nors Carriy 2 (Herstoner og 66, Jones 56) Pyrnouth 1 (Colum 71); Wombine 5 (Carriol pers 12, 29, McCaven 33, Stolland 42, Read 82) Burnols O, Third Despon: Cardiff O Scurtorpo O; Hutl City 1 (Carty 15) Colchester 2 (Adook 21, Sala 26).

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE Premier Division:

PARION 21, See 201.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE Premier Divisions:
Rath Rovers O Rangers 6 (Petro 10, Dune 21,
23, Robertson 28, Lauthup 56, McCobe 83).

BRIAN McCLAR TESTIMONIAL Manchester Util
1 (Keane) Celuc 2 (Hay 2).

PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Coverily 0
Asson Villa 2. AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First DIVI-AVUN INSURGERUS SAMELLE SAMELLE 2.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Divisions Depot file 2 Novech 2.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Divisions Ashiors 2 Battock 2: Crastey 2 Dorchester 0: Hasbing 2 Satisbury 3. Midland Divisions Grontown 1 Corby 0: Rounds 0 Shepshed Dynamo 0: Redden 1 Hasbing 1 Shepshed Dynamo 0: Redden 1 Hasbing 1 Shepshed Dynamo 0: Redden 1 Stontown Divisions Firet 0 Margate 6; Trowondge 1 Workey 2: Weston-super Mare 2 Cosedon 3. League Cup final first legt Burbon Albon 2 Sudbury Town 1.

IOSS LEAGUE Premier Divisions Ayesbury Utd 1 Hendon 2: Boretam Wood 1 Yearding 1: Dulwich Hamler 0 Surbon that 1: Gross Athelbs 1 Stations 2: Heydridge Swifts 0 Enfeld 0. First Divisions Barting 1 Stations 1: Townige 1 Sations 2: Heydridge 1 Sations 1: Townige 1 Abrigton Town 0. Secretal Divisions Berling 1 Edgeore 1: Bedford Town 4 Ware 1: Brackned 1 Bansleed 0; Cober Row & Romford 2 Luchterhead 1; Horsham 0 Tibury 1: Wernbley 0

Homchurch O Reeley 1; Southall 2 Cuarton 2: UNIBOND LEAGUE Presider Division: Buston O Roussley 0; Frickey Artable 2 Gambonough Irmuy 2; Guestley 0 Manne 1: Lancaster 1 Airetton 0; Fruncon 1 Bamber Budge 2: Witton Albron 1 Winslord 3. Frast Divisions Congeton 1 Custon Aelton 1: Gest Homood 2 Farsley Celts 3; Raschife Borough 2 Achton Did 1: Warmer, ton 1 Workington 1; Worksop 0 Lincoln Uid 1: WINSTONE, AD KERT LEAGUE First Divisions: Chatham 3 Deal 1: Herne Bin, 3 Thomesmead 2: Hythe 0 Whitstable 2: Stode Green 3 Canterbury City 0.
UNIUST SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Divisions alone Hussiann 0 Eastbourne Town 3.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE INTERLINIK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Barnel 2 West Michards Police 1; Biological 2 Stratford 1: Chasetown 1 Witenhall 1: R ter 1 Shifted 0: Stapenhall 1 Blowsch 1

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Promise Division: Arnold 4 Liversedge 1: Husbrall Tow 5 Beiper Town 1: Ossett Town 1 North Femby

1. SCREWFEC DERECT LEAGUE Premier Divisione Brainwater O Mondotsheld 2; Westbury 1 Paulton Rovers 1. 194930N EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Divisione Friestone 3 Habstond 3; Lowestoth O Godeston 1: Rhommaner 1 Harmest A Profession 2; Wat-ton O Falenham O: Woodbridge O Bury Tosm 5, happen wisser Collainste, League Teles Dela-HARP MATIONAL LEAGUE OF RELIAND Pro-miler Division: Deny City 1 Shampook Rovers 2; Finn Harps 3 Shetbourno 2; St Patrick's Ath-letic 4 Sept Rovers 2.

SPANSH LEAGUE: Externatura 1 (Juanto para 22) Valenca O. FRENCH LEAGUE: Bastis 1 (Morarcik 25) Pans St-Germain 1 (Loko 14). GERMAN CUP Some finale Energie Continus 3 (Worthardt 65, Ingang 68, Konecke 31) Karl-



In tomorrow's Independent County-by-county guide to the 1997 cricket season

sport

Boon the enforcer Derek Pringle meets the new Durham captain, page 30

Gould survives as Wales manager

Football JON BRODKIN

Bobby Gould was retained as the manager of Wales yesterday after the Football Association of Wales' management com-mittee accepted his apology for making alleged racist re-marks. Gould's future had been in doubt after the Bolton Wanderers and Wales striker, Nathan Blake, accused him of racism two weeks ago.

Gould, who has fiercely denied any racist intent, weicomed the decision. "I have been cleared and I am delighted with that, but I knew in my own mind I had done nothing wrong," he said. "As far as I am concerned the matter is now closed and I am not going to say anything about it. All I want to do is get on with the job I am paid to do."

The issue is likely to rumble on, however. Blake has stated that he does not wish to play for Gould again, although he hint-ed yesterday that he may reverse that decision. "I don't know whether I will change my mind and play for Wales again if selected, because I haven't really thought about it yet." he said.

"I have spoken to my manager at Bolton, who says that I in Europe for the winners of ought to play for my country, and I have spoken to my agent. who says that I should stand by my original decision."

Blake was particularly incensed by Gould's remarks sion has more than 18 teams. about the Nottingham Forest striker, Pierre van Hooijdonk, following Wales' home defeat to the Netherlands in October. Gould has admitted calling Van Hooijdonk "a black bastard", but insists no offence was intended.

Blake has also cited a training ground incident before another World Cup qualifier, against Belgium, in which Gould told him he would "play for the blacks [black bibs]". Blake subsequently withdrew from the substitutes' bench rather than sit alongside his manager during the game.

Gould's apology, rejected by Blake, appears to have been pivback him. In a written statement, the association said it had taken into account a letter from Gordon Taylor, the chief exec-

utive of the Professional Footballers' Association, expressing admiration for Gould's apology and explanation of events

Officials from England and Germany will outline their arguments for hosting the 2006 World Cup to the executive committee of Uefa, the gov erning body of European foot-ball, in Geneva today. The meeting was called after complaints from the Football Association that senior figures in Uefa were already committed to support of an exclusive Eu-

ropean bid by the Germans.

"We will be asking Uefa if they are prepared to take a neutral position between our bid and Germany," Alec McGivan, the director of the FA's World Cup campaign, said. "If not, if they want to come out for one or the other, we want to know how they are going to do that, how they will achieve a democratic process that fairly as-

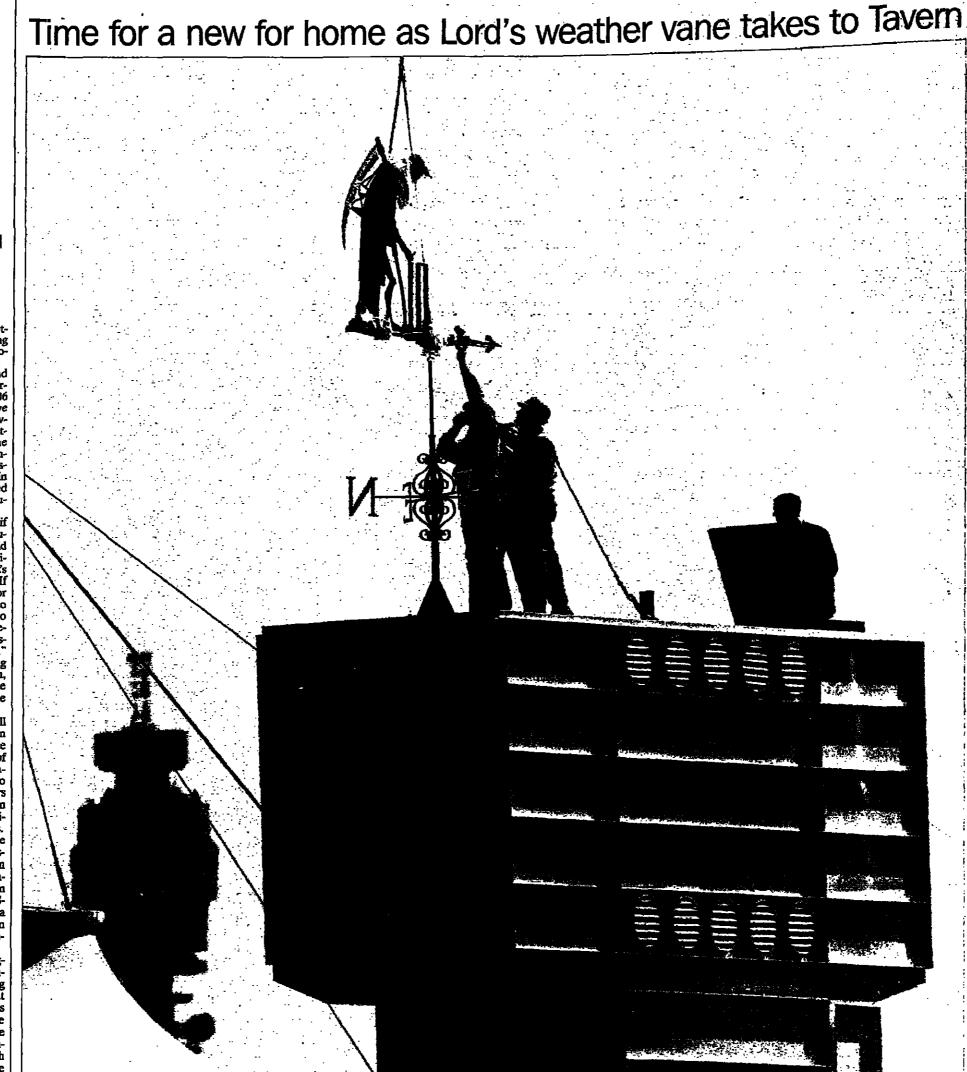
sesses the merits of both bids. The FA, which is budgeting £8m to £10m for its campaign, has made it clear it will continue with its bid regardless of the outcome of today's meeting.
The FA has also said it will

support the Football League in its efforts to reinstate a place the Coca-Cola Cup. Next sea-son Uefa Cup places will no longer be open to the winners of lesser cup competitions in countries where the top divi-

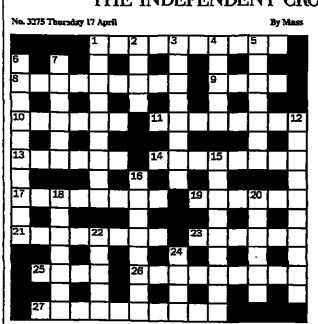
Chelsea look set to sign the Nigeria international Celestine Babayaro from the Belgian club Anderlecht. They are understood to have agreed in principle to purchase the 18year-old defender, who was a member of the Nigerian team which won gold at last summer's Atlanta Olympics.

The Middlesbrough manager, Bryan Robson, has con-Des Walker, whose contract at Sheffield Wednesday expires this summer. Walker, 31, may be available on a free transfer if the Bosman ruling is extended to include transfers between English otal to the FAW's decision to clubs. Robson is likely to face competition from Nottingham Forest for the former England defender's signature.

More football, page 29



THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS I'm for having billion in

- bundle? Not likely (10) irregular rebates, of course (5.4)
- Game reserve (4) 10 In a short time meal must follow (6) 11 Animal's bound, attached
- to stake (8)
 13 Unit's at fault, leading to burst (6)
- 14 Appeal in band strikes the Parisian as slight (8) 17 Probes with bugs quietly
- concealed (8)
 19 Points to cultivate, it's said, m conduct (6) 21 Bridge players inclined to
- get joined up (8) 23 Fluid, fourth of butane, feeding guttering lamps
- 25 Obscure English coin (4) Expert with hammer securing curling ornate pat-27 Rise before commotion
- **DOWN** One figure skirting river and canal (9) Gnaw at stalk (4)
- Faults of receivers (8) Broad taste, but eschewing seconds (5) Yobbo's nicked ring and fine watch (7)
- Does it ensure a high lurnover? (10) Decoy's trapped State law-
- agency? (7) 20 Boss, if yielding, has to 12 Level, University, in match

Rack issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370.

16 Jack's runny nose (8) 18 One recruited by joining

at last (10)

15 Wound up by crack in bar, on time (9)

16 Man I almost twist? (4)

Athletics Athletics Canada, the sport's governing federation in the country, and Chrobotek agreed on Tuesday to send the IAAF Coun-The disgraced former 100 metres world record holder Ben cil a letter asking it to reconsid-

second comeback

Johnson wants to make another comeback. Johnson is training near Ottawa and wants to challenge the Olympic champion, his fellow Canadian Donovan Bailey, if the International Amateur Athletic Federation agrees to lift his lifetime ban.

weather vane had been a prominent feature of the Grandstand in St John's Wood, north London, since 1928

"The only thing I don't have is the race edge," the 35-year-old Johnson said. "The speed and endurance are there, but the mind isn't there 100 per cent. It won't take long.'

"It's 100 per cent that this man is back," Morris Chrobotek, Johnson's manager and agent said. "He has served his time for an alleged second offence. He's clean. He's raw. He's back."

er Johnson's ban at its meeting on 29-30 May. The letter says the ban prevents Johnson, who still considers himself a full-time ath-

lete, from earning a living.
Johnson tested positive for
Stanozolol in 1988 and was suspended for two years after winning the Olympic 100m title at Seoul in a world record 9.79sec. In January 1993, he was suspended for life after a second positive test for steroids.

Johnson said he is scheduled to run at meetings on 1 June in Bratislava and 5 June in Rome, assuming the IAAF lifts the ban. Meanwhile Bailey will officially become the 100m worldrecord holder this week. Usually

world records are ratified within a few weeks, but all the records from last summer's Olympics, including Bailey's 9.84 in the 100m and Michael Johnson's 19.32 for the 200m, have yet to be ratified by the IAAF.

The IAAF general secretary, Istvan Gyulai, blames USA Track and Field, the American governing body, for the delay, and brushed aside reports that ratification was being withheld because of a lab error in Atlanta.

A few months ago, it was revealed that five to seven positive drug tests from the Atlanta Games were disregarded because the contract with the testing lab had expired before the Games ended. It has nothing to do with that," Gyulai said. He blamed the problem in delays in obtaining the proper paperwork from USA Track and Field.

Detroit ban for dead octopuses

ice hockey ANDREW MARTIN

What has 10 legs, Red Wings and is banned from the Detroit home of one of the National Hockey League finest? Here's a hint: the answer concerns one of the more bizarre American sporting traditions come play-off time.

Fans of the Detroit Red Wings caught bringing dead octopuses into the Joe Louis Arena - or, worse, chucking them on to the rink - are to be thrown out. The practice of lobbing the

Vane glorious return: Old Father Time is gently lowered on to its new berth, the Tavern stand at Lord's, after a six-month restoration by Richard Quinnell. The famous

eight-legged creatures on to the ice has been a play-off ritual for Red Wings fans since 1952. That is when the first octopus was tossed at the defunct Olympia Stadium, each arm representing the number of victories needed to win the Stanley Cup. It now takes 16 victories to win the outsized trophy, but the tradition has continued.

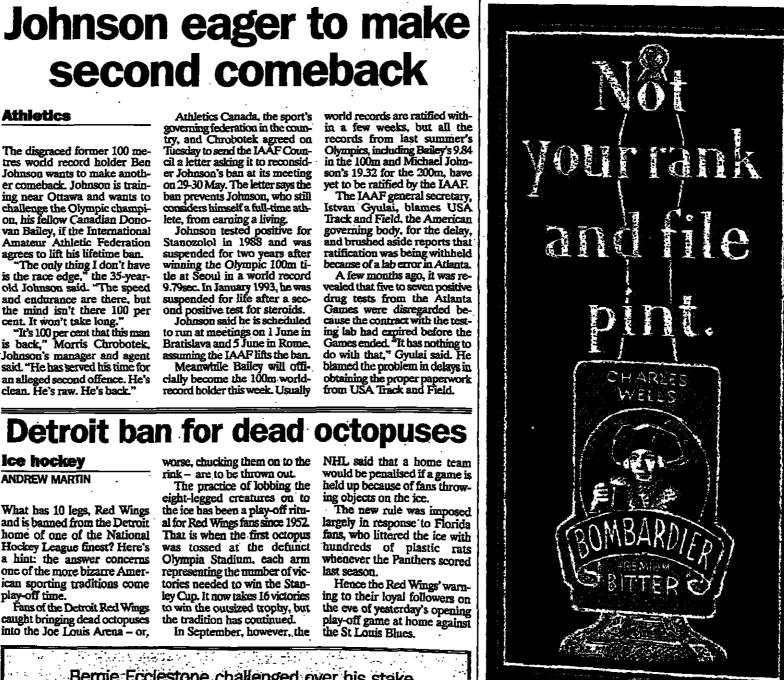
would be penalised if a game is held up because of fans throwing objects on the ice. The new rule was imposed largely in response to Florida

hundreds of plastic rats whenever the Panthers scored last season. Hence the Red Wings' warning to their loyal followers on the eve of yesterday's opening

Bernie Ecclestone challenged over his stake

In September, however, the

in Formula One - Page 22



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